FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 AUGUST 1984

Iranian Pilgrims

Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri criticized Saudi Arabia's policy toward pilgrims in remarks reported by Tehran radio, asserting that Saudi officials have assisted Israel by preventing pilgrims from holding anti-American and anti-Israeli demonstrations and that the Saudis have tried to stop Iranian pilgrims from contacting other nationalities because of the Kingdom's fear that the message of the Islamic revolution will spread. In contrast, Musavi-Kho'iniha, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's representative for pilgrimage affairs, stressed earlier that Iranian pilgrims should not shout slogans against the Saudi Arabian Government and that Iran will strongly condemn any action against the Saudis, according to a press interview cited by IRNA on 30 July. Nevertheless, the hajj official said that pilgrims should shout slogans against the United States, Israel, and the Soviet Union because "there is no healthier, stronger and more effective way than demonstrations during hajj" for Muslims to express their views against the enemies of Islam.

Israel

Likud leader Yitzhaq Shamir and his Alignment counterpart Shim'on Peres met on 1 August to discuss the formation of a national unity government, Jerusalem radio reported. The meeting was later adjourned. Both party leaders had met on 31 July with President Hayim Herzog. After his meeting with Herzog, Shamir stated to the radio that there are no basic differences of opinion between the two parties on economic and Lebanese issues. He also said that he does not "reject outright" a national unity government headed by the Alignment, a statement later denied by his office.

Meanwhile, Yahad, Ometz, and TAMI movements decided to set up a joint bloc to coordinate their moves in the coalition negotiations, the Tel Aviv paper *DAVAR* reported. The three groups decided to inform the president that they support a national unity government and prefer that it be headed by the Alignment.

Egypt

The Islamic Jihad organization stated that it has planted 190 mines in the Suez Canal and the Bab el-Mandeb, and claimed responsibility for recent explosions in those areas, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. MENA had earlier cited a responsible government source's disclosure that a number of ships reported explosions while they were passing through the Gulf of Suez.

Lebanon

Two IDF soldiers were wounded by gunfire from the Syrian held sector in eastern Lebanon, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement carried by ITIM. Two "terrorists" were subsequently killed in a clash with the IDF south of Sidon, according to IDF radio.

In Beirut, the Sodeco and Fu'ad Shihab crossing points were reopened to traffic, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat chaired a meeting of seven other committee members in Tunis to discuss the Executive Committee's participation in the expanded Palestinian dialogue conference scheduled to be held in Algiers shortly, KUNA reported citing a Palestinian source. Six members did not attend the meeting, which was too small to meet quorum requirements. Earlier, 'Arafat informed the London paper *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that the PNC will convene in mid-August after the different resistance factions have reached agreement in this regard, according to KUNA. In Damascus, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar warned against convening the PNC before the various Palestinian factions reach a comprehensive agreement, QNA reported citing the UAE paper *AL-KHALIJ*. Abu Mayzar also told *AL-KHALIJ* that both the Democratic and National Alliances agree that 'Arafat should be replaced by a new Executive Committee chairman.

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DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 149 *1 August 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

- Agreement Reached To Convene PNC in August *[KUNA]* A 1
- More on Reaction to Soviet Peace Proposals A 1
    - Salah Khalaf on Proposals *[SAWT ASH-SHA'B 31 Jul]* A 1
    - Qaddumi Voices PLO Support *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* A 1
    - Executive Committee Welcomes Proposals *[INA]* A 2
    - Voice of PLO Endorsement A 2
- 'Arafat Chairs PLO Executive Committee Session *[KUNA]* A 2
- PLO Spokesman on the Need for New Chairman *[AL-KHALIJ 31 Jul]* A 3
- Fatah Central Committee Postpones Tunis Meeting *[INA]* A 3
- Fatah Dissident Denies Contacts With 'Arafat *[SAWT ASH-SHA'B 1 Aug]* A 3
- Resistance Operations in South Lebanon Reported *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* A 3

OPEC AFFAIRS

- Al-Maqhur, Yamani View OPEC's Situation *[OPECNA]* B 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

- USSR Middle East Plan Welcomed, Supported C 1
- AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM Hits U.S.-Israeli Rejection of Plan *[WAKH]* C 1

UAE

- Zayid Receives Message From Sudan's Numayri *[WAKH]* C 1
- Kuwaiti Airliner Catches Fire at Dubai Airport *[WAKH]* C 1

PDRY

- Support for Soviet Peace Initiative Urged C 2

EGYPT

- Islamic Jihad Said Responsible for Suez Blasts *[Radio Free Lebanon]* D 1
    - Canal Free of Mines D 1
- 'Abd al-Majid Views Middle East Situation *[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 28 Jul]* D 1
- Al-Baz Interviewed on USSR Role in Middle East D 2
- Ghali on Implications of Israeli Elections *[Paris LE MONDE 31 Jul]* D 3
- 'Abd al-Majid on Mubarak's Visit to Yugoslavia D 3
- Ghali Makes Statement on Cairo's Regional Role D 3
- 'Abd al-Majid Calls for African Ministers Meeting D 4
- Somali President's Envoy Departs Cairo D 4
- Briefs: DPRK Envoy D 4

IRAQ

- Armed Forces Issues Communique No 1,543 E 1
- Ramadan Confers With France's Cresson 31 Jul E 1
    - Cresson Departs E 1

Saudi Paper Interviews Oil Minister Taqi *[WAKH]* .... E 1
Kurdish Factions Report KDP-KSPI Clash *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdestan]* .... E 2

JORDAN

Soviet Official Arrives in Amman 31 Jul .... F 1
    Meets Al-Masri .... F 1
Daily Views Soviet Middle East Proposals .... F 1
    Further SAWT ASH-SHA'B Comment *[31 Jul]* .... F 1
Foreign Minister Interviewed on Arab Relations *[London AL-MAJALLAH 28 Jul-3 Aug]* .... F 2
JORDAN TIMES Analyzes Israeli Elections *[31 Jul]* .... F 3
'Ubaydat Urges Support for Aqaba Development *[JORDAN TIMES 23 Jul]* .... F 4
Chamber of Commerce Group Returns From Syria *[AR-RA'Y 1 Aug]* .... F 5

LEBANON

Reportage on Hijacked Air France Plane .... G 1
    Hijackers Insist on Landing *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 1
    Airport To Refuse Landing *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 1
    Obstacles Placed Along Runway .... G 1
    Pilot Contacts Airport *[Radio Free Lebanon]* .... G 1
    Authorities Hold Emergency Meeting *[Radio Free Lebanon]* .... G 1
    Plane Lands at Airport .... G 1
    Plane Leaves Beirut .... G 1
    Cyprus To Allow Landing .... G 2
    Plane Heading for Tehran .... G 2
Karami Supports Soviet Call for Conference .... G 2
Polyakov To Discuss Soviet Mideast Proposal .... G 2
Al-Jumayyil Receives Robert Franjiyah, Deputy .... G 2
Al-Jumayyil Attends Army Day Ceremony 1 Aug *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 3
Army Commander Issues Army Day 'Order of Day' .... G 3
Birri, Junblatt Discuss Latest Developments .... G 3
Sulayman Franjiyah on Security, Foreign Issues *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* .... G 3
Two Beirut Crossing Points Reopen 1 Aug *[Voice of Lebanon]* .... G 4
Islamic Jihad Group Threatens Americans .... G 4
Amal, Hezbollah Clash in Southern Beirut *[Radio Free Lebanon]* .... G 4
Mufti's Office Contacts PSP, Al-Murabitun .... G 5
Al-Murabitun, PSP Agree to Security Measures .... G 5
VOAL Reports Resistance Operations in South .... G 5

SYRIA

Report on Al-Asad's Interview With LE MONDE .... H 1
President al-Asad Delivers Army Day Message .... H 1
ATH-THAWRAH on Syrian-Palestinian Relations .... H 2
Ministers Meet With Greek Delegation .... H 3
Al-Asad Receives AS-SAFFIR Chief Editor .... H 3

ISRAEL

JERUSALEM POST Reports Members of 11th Knesset *[1 Aug]* .... I 1
Final Knesset Election Results Announced .... I 1
Alignment's Bar-Lev Discusses Herzog Meeting .... I 1
    Further Comment .... I 2
Alignment-Likud Unity Meeting Adjourned .... I 2
AL-QUDS on Results of Knesset Elections *[25 Jul]* .... I 2
AL-FAJR on Significance of Arab Vote in Elections *[25 Jul]* .... I 2
Police To Take Firm Action Against Kahana .... I 3
Editorial Discusses Soviet Peace Initiative *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 1 Aug]* .... I 3
IDF Closes Tyre Port; New Security Steps Seen .... I 3
IDF Kills Two 'Terrorists' in Lebanon Clash .... I 3

IDF Officer On Jordanian Army Modernization *[MA'ARIV 1 Aug]* .... I 3

Foreign Reserves Drop, Money Supply Rises .... I 3

3-Month Freeze Set on Government Contracts, Hiring .... I 4

New Daily Newspaper in Territories Published *['AL HAMISHMAR 1 Aug]* .... I 4

New Postal Service in Mount Hebron Area *[HATZOFE 1 Aug]* .... I 4

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Energy Ministry Denies OPEC Withdrawal Rumors .... Q 1

New Ambassadors Appointed to Romania, Argentina *[EL MOUDJAHID 25 Jul]* .... Q 1

LIBYA

Reportage on Visit of Italian Foreign Minister .... Q 1
- Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Andreotti .... Q 1
- Trade Agreements Signed *[Rome]* .... Q 1
- Cooperation Committee Meets .... Q 1
- ANSA Reports on Meetings .... Q 2
- Andreotti Impressions of Talks *[ANSA]* .... Q 2

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Moroccan King's Envoy, Message .... Q 3

MOROCCO

Guinean Foreign Minister Leads Delegation on Visit .... Q 3

Islamic Youth Group Members Sentenced to Death .... Q 3

SUDAN

Saudi Arabia's AL-YAWM Interviews Foreign Minister *[30 Jul]* .... Q 3

WESTERN SAHARA

Reportage on Recent Moroccan-SDAR Clashes .... Q 4
- Twenty Killed in Battle *[Algiers]* .... Q 4
- Moroccan Forces' Centers Hit *[Algiers]* .... Q 4

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Minister Gives Briefing on New Planning System .... R 1

Tigre People's Liberation Front Claims Battle Victories *[Voice of Tigre Revolution]* .... R 1

KENYA

Briefs: FRG Loan Agreements .... R 1

Briefs: Rice, Flour Price Rise .... R 2
Outgoing Sudanese Ambassador

Defense Minister on Armed Forces Training .... R 2

Democratic Party Regional Leader Dies in Prison .... R 2

Briefs: USSR Komsomol Visitor .... R 2

CENTRAL AFRICA

CHAD

Niger's Kountche Meets Habre, Press During Stopover .... S 1

Envoy Brings Biya Message to Habre, Comments .... S 1

Radio Bardai Comments on Chances for Reconciliation .... S 2

GUNT Communique on ‘Denigrating’ Campaign *[Bardai Chadian National Radio]* S 3

CONGO

Upper Voltan Leader May Attend PCT Congress Session S 3

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

AFP on Economic Difficulties Facing Country S 3

WEST AFRICA

BENIN

Kerekou Reelected, To Name New Cabinet T 1
  Further on President’s Reelection T 1
PANA Lists National Assembly Committee Leaders T 1

GHANA

Census Shows Population Above 12 Million T 1
Cuban Friendship Delegation Concludes Visit T 1
Newspaper Registration Deadline Extended T 1
GBC ‘Near Collapse’; PNDC ‘Donation’ Sought T 2
GBC Television To Broadcast in Color by End of Year T 2

GUINEA-BISSAU

Suspended Former Minister Given New Duties T 2

IVORY COAST

Colombian Coffee Federation Delegation Visits T 2

LIBERIA

Doe Meeting With Reagan Envoy Reported T 3
Doe Appoints Deputy Finance, Planning Ministers T 3
Official Suspended for Defrauding Government T 3

NIGER

Kountche To Make Pilgrimage to Mecca T 3

NIGERIA

Lagos: Media Foments Discord Between OPEC, Nigeria T 3
First Oil Well Being Drilled in Lake Chad Basin T 4
TRIBUNE Against Normalizing Ties With Israel T 4
UK Diplomat Cited on Return of High Commissioners *[Lagos SUNDAY CONCORD 29 Jul]* T 4
UK Sincerity in Normalizing Ties Questioned T 5
Buhari Addresses Newly Appointed Envoys T 5
Soviet Embassy Report Details Trade With Nigeria T 5
Lagos To Host August Anti-Apartheid Seminar T 6
Kaduna Radio, TV Announce Scheduling Changes T 6

UPPER VOLTA

EEC’s Pisani Meets With Sankara, Comments T 6
  Aid Agreements Signed T 7
DPRK Military Delegation Arrives for Anniversary T 7

Committees for the Defense of the Revolution Described T 7
Sports Stadium Built With PRC Aid Dedicated T 8

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Further on Explosion in Luanda Port U 1
Lara Rejects Any Negotiations With 'Puppets' U 1
Cape Verde Leader Visits for Talks With Leaders U 1
Dos Santos Speaks U 2
Talks End U 2
Dos Santos Congratulates Castro on Anniversary U 2
Jorge Receives Credentials of Three Envoys U 3
UNITA Says It Halts Government Offensive *[Johannesburg]* U 3
UNITA Communique Cites 6-11 Jul Victories U 3
[Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel]

BOTSWANA

BPU Announces Parliamentary Candidates U 3

LESOTHO

Sixishe Says RSA Sanctions Hamper Food Relief U 4
Jonathan on Implementing Parts of Election Act U 4
New Education, Sports, Culture Minister Sworn In U 4

MOZAMBIQUE

Cuban Experts To Assist Fishing Activities U 4
'Armed Bandits' Attack Conho Educational Center U 5

NAMIBIA

Van Niekerk Cites Lack of Angolan Restraint on SWAPO *[Johannesburg]* U 5
Mudge Criticizes Multi-Party Conference on Constitution *[SAPA]* U 5
Further on Mortar Attack on Oshakati U 5

SOUTH AFRICA

Government To Close Consulate in New Zealand U 5
Cabinet Meets; Reported To Have Discused Talks U 6
Minister Rejects Expulsion Resolution by Postal Union U 6
Du Plessis Takes Over Finance Portfolio U 6
Minister Urges Media Role in Promoting Consensus *[RAND DAILY MAIL 28 Jul]* U 6
SOWETAN Editorial on Bombing Attacks, Violence *[24 Jul]* U 7
CITIZEN Discusses Impact of International Relations *[19 Jul]* U 8

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Invited To Attend GDR Party Anniversary U 9
Bulgaria Requests Information on Agriculture U 9

ZIMBABWE

Cuban Party Leaders To Attend ZANU-PF Congress U 9
Ministry To Regulate Attendance at Meetings Abroad U 9
THE HERALD Reports FAO Conference Declaration *[26 Jul]* U 9

Agreement Reached To Convene PNC in August

LD311214 Kuwait KUNA in English 1101 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] London, July 31 (KUNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that the Palestinian National Council (PNC) will be convened in mid-August after the agreement reached in this regard between different resistance factions. Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] told the London-based Arabic newspapers *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* in a brief statement Tuesday that preparations were now accordingly underway to hold the PNC meeting.

Referring again to the result of the Israeli general election, he reiterated that "we Palestinians do not harbour any great hopes about prospects of a resolution" to the dispute by the victory of either of two main parties in Israel, Likud or Labour.

More on Reaction to Soviet Peace Proposals

Salah Khalaf on Proposals

JN311203 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Jul 84 pp 1, 19

[Text] Tunis — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf [Abu Iyad] has called for a joint Palestinian-Jordanian-Syrian coordination within an effective framework of Arab solidarity during the current stage to confront the fierce Zionist onslaught against the Palestine question and the Arab nation. In an exclusive statement to *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*, Khalaf said that such coordination is necessary in order to confront all possibilities of aggression, especially after the results of the recent Israeli elections, which exposed the Zionist extremism toward the Palestinian people and the Arabs, and in light of the continuation of differences in the Arab arena and the Iraq-Iran war. Khalaf added: It is necessary to stop the Iraq-Iran war which is exhausting the two countries and end the side differences among the Arab states.

He pointed out that the PLO bears no rancor against any side, and that it is concerned about removing all the differences between it and the Syrian and Libyan brothers. He explained that there are contacts taking place between the Fatah Movement on the one hand and Libya and Syria on the other. He expressed the hope that these contacts will bring positive results in the interest of the joint pan-Arab objectives.

Abu Iyad stressed that the Fatah Movement is concerned, more than at any time before, about implementing what has been reached with the factions of the Democratic Alliance in accordance with the Aden agreement.

He said that any statements made by this or that side will not affect the essence of the Aden agreement, because it is the possession of the Palestinian people whose masses inside and outside the occupied territories have expressed their complete support for it, and expressed their concern about the PLO's unity and about safeguarding its course of struggle against imperialism and Zionism. He said that this represented a popular referendum that proves the firmness of the march and the sincerity of its course of serving the continuous struggle on the road of liberation and of restoring our people's rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the independent state.

On the results of the recent Israeli elections, Khalaf said: The results of the recent Israeli elections have exposed the Zionist entity's hostile nature and the escalation of the extremist course of all the political parties and forces in this entity. He said that these election results have also shattered the erroneous impression regarding the effect of the "peace camp" in Israel. Khalaf called for a unified Arab stand that is based on pan-Arab will and international support to confront these new developments in the Israeli arena.

Abu Iyad described the Soviet proposals for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East as the clearest international proposals that have so far been proposed.

He said that these proposals constitute a practical reply to all the hostile U.S. proposals, which are based on complete support for the expansionist and hostile Zionist policy against the Palestinian land.

He said that the Soviet proposals are in harmony with the international resolutions calling for the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. In addition to this, he added: These proposals provide the mechanism of implementation and gain the wide support of the international community and all the states that love peace, security, and justice in the world.

Qaddumi Voices PLO Support

JN311739 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has voiced the PLO's support for the new Soviet proposal to solve the Middle East problem and to establish just peace based on achieving the Palestinian people's aspirations, goals, and inalienable and national rights.

In a statement to TASS, Qaddumi said that the new Soviet proposal reflects a sincere desire and determination to reach a just settlement of the Palestinian people's cause.

He added that while the PLO considers this Soviet initiative a positive move, it likes to note the stand of both the United States and Israel — a stand which rejects international initiatives seeking to establish peace and to reach a just settlement of the Middle East crisis. He noted the U.S.-Israeli denial of the Palestinian people's national rights and their nonrecognition of the PLO as their sole and legitimate representative.

Qaddumi affirmed that the Palestinian people, who are struggling to regain their rights, support international efforts to reach a just solution in the region that guarantees the PLO's participation in these efforts — a solution that also guarantees their returning to their land and establishing their Palestinian state on it. Concluding, Qaddumi said that holding an international conference in which all parties will participate is the most ideal means of reaching a just and comprehensive solution.

Executive Committee Welcomes Proposals

JN312007 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Tunis, 31 Jul (INA) — The PLO Executive Committee held a meeting here today under Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. WAFA stated that the discussion during the meeting dealt with the new Soviet proposals on the Middle East. WAFA clarified that the Executive Committee discussed the principles of the proposals in detail, the foremost of which are: the inadmissibility of capturing foreign lands through aggression; returning all Arab territories occupied [by Israel] in 1967; dismantling the settlements Israel has established in these territories; recognizing the Palestinian people's right to return, to self- determination, and to create an independent state on the Palestinian lands.

WAFA said that the PLO Executive Committee also discussed the other principles of the proposals, including: ensuring that the Palestinian people, whose sole and legitimate representative is the PLO, should practice their right to self-determination; considering the eastern part of Jerusalem an inalienable part of the Palestinian state; and having the Palestinian state, after it is created, determine the character of its relations with the neighboring countries, including the possibility of forming a confederation.

WAFA added that the PLO Executive Committee carefully studied the proposed means of settlement based on collective efforts within the framework of an international conference which will be held for this purpose. The Executive Committee also discussed the objectives of such a conference and how to organize its work. The Executive Committee reiterated that it welcomes the Soviet proposals, proceeding from the resolutions the PNC adopted at its last session.

Voice of PLO Endorsement

JN312155 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1644 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: At this time when all current facts indicate that the U.S. imperialist-Zionist policy seeks to freeze the current situation and to prevent any move to reach a just and honorable solution to the Palestine question — a solution that guarantees our Palestinian people's legitimate rights, the foremost of which is the right to establish their independent state on their national soil — the recent Soviet proposal to solve the Palestine question and the entire Middle East problem appears to be an obvious challenge to this policy and a counterweight to it. This proposal deserves all appreciation and concern. This is not only because it is a constructive plan that opens the prospects for peace in the Arab region and emphasizes our people's right to establish their independent state under the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative, it is also because, within this highly important context, this plan has been initiated by one of the two superpowers in particularly historic circumstances which are distinguished by the escalating conflict between the two as a result of U.S. imperialism's feverish attempts to impose its policy on the Arab region in order to transform it into an area serving its strategic objectives against the Soviet Union.

Since U.S. imperialist-Zionist policy is currently aimed at freezing the situation in the region in an attempt to subjugate it to its will by fragmenting the Arab situation and in an attempt to liquidate the Palestine question by dealing more blows to the PLO, and since this policy is also aimed at preoccupying the various Arab countries with different internal problems and reducing the fateful conflict between the Arabs and the Zionist entity to a question of withdrawing forces from one place to another or reaching security agreements here and there such as is currently taking place in and around Lebanon, the importance of the Soviet proposal being presented at this particular phase lies in the friendly Soviet Union's initiative to confront and check these imperialist plans and to push both the regional and international situation to a point where the United States will find itself obliged to deal seriously with this proposal. It is a proposal which emphasizes that holding an international conference to be attended by all concerned parties, the foremost of which is the PLO, is the only solution the world must seek.

Everybody is aware and confident that the Soviet Union is a friendly country which has been and still is defending both the Palestinian people's rights and the PLO, our sole, legitimate representative. The Soviet Union made several proposals. The last was the late President Brezhnev's plan. These plans constituted a source of strength and support both for our people's struggle and for the PLO's effectiveness and strength — even though these plans failed to assert themselves in a manner that achieved the desired peace. Despite the new plan's similarity with the previous plans, it is both necessary and logical to view it differently. This is because of the current phase which our cause, the Arab region, and international strife are witnessing.

The latest Soviet plan, which expresses the Soviet Union's principled policy, has come in special circumstances and within the framework of new international balances of power that will enable the friendly Soviet Union to play an essential role in foiling the U.S. imperialist-Zionist freezing policy. This may take place by increasing Soviet support for the PLO in order to enable it, in view of the siege it is currently facing, to play an essential role in confronting the attempts to freeze and uproot it and to play an essential role in the regional policy — a policy which prevents the U.S. policy in the region from succeeding or becoming hegemonic.

The recent Soviet plan actually supports the PLO as our people's sole and legitimate representative. This plan completely contradicts the imperialist-Zionist plan aimed at abolishing the PLO. The support this Soviet plan gives to the PLO can be effective, can assert itself, and can move toward the convocation of an international conference. While we Palestinians value this new plan, we hope that the forthcoming phase will witness developments on the level of establishing a strategic alliance with the friendly Soviet Union.

'Arafat Chairs PLO Executive Committee Session

LD312236 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1928 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Tunis, 31 Jul (KUNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today chaired a meeting which included a number of members of the Executive Committee, namely: Faruq Qaddumi, Mahmud 'Abbas, Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, Hanna Nasir, Jamal as-Surani, Hamid Abu Sittah, and 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad.

Absent from the meeting were: Ahmad al-Yamani — the Popular Front; Muhammad Khalifah — As-Sa'iqah; Talal Naji — the General Command; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, and Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi — independent; and Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh — the Democratic Front.

According to the Executive Committee Constitution, nine members should attend the first session of any meeting for it to be considered as having formed a quorum.

The Constitution also provides for the possibility of holding sessions which follow the first session with a quorum of eight members.

A reliable Palestinian source told KUNA that today's meeting dealt with the question of the participation of Executive Committee members in the expanded Palestinian dialogue conference, scheduled to be held in Algiers within the next 2 days, if the preliminary talks for this meeting being held today in Algiers between a delegation of the Fatah movement, led by Khalil al-Wazir and which includes Muhammad Ghunaym and Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid on one side, and representatives of the Popular and Democratic Fronts, the Palestinian CP, and the PLO on the other, are successful.

Should the meeting of the expanded conference of the Palestinian dealogue be held, the general secretaries of the organizations involved in the dialogue, the office of the speaker of the Palestine National Council, as well as the members of the Executive Committee are scheduled to take part in this conference.

The same source said that the seven members of the Executive Committee who met today under the chairmanship of 'Arafat, also discussed Palestinian, Arab, and international developments in the light of the sharp split in the Israeli community, demonstrated in the recent parliamentary elections in the Zionist entity.

During their meeting, members of the Executive Committee also discussed the initiative presented recently by the Soviet Union aimed at solving the Middle East question.

PLO Spokesman on the Need for New Chairman

GF311514 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 31 Jul 84 pp 1, 12

[Dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official spokesman for the PLO, who is participating in the dialogue between the two alliances, and who is a member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that the two alliances agree that Yasir 'Arafat is no longer a Palestinian denominator and that they should look for a new Executive Committee chairman. He said the two alliances differ on how to achieve a practical implementation of this issue. The Democratic Alliance believes that this is possible within the framework of the PLO establishments and the PNC meeting. The National Alliance does not believe in this possibility.

Fatah Central Committee Postpones Tunis Meeting

JN311948 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Tunis, 31 Jul (INA) — The Fatah Central Committee has indefinitely postponed its meeting which was scheduled to be held here today in the presence of Yasir 'Arafat.

A responsible Palestinian source has told an INA correspondent that the Central Committee decided to postpone the meeting until its delegation to Algeria led by Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], returns. Abu Jihad left for Algiers yesterday leading a delegation to represent the Fatah movement at the meetings that will prepare for an expanded meeting of the resistance groups, in accordance with the Algiers-Aden agreement. The Central Committee began its new session 2 days ago.

Fatah Dissident Denies Contacts With 'Arafat

JN010921 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] Damascus — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Nimr Muhammad Salih, Abu Salih, former member of the Fatah Central Committee, who was discharged from the Fatah movement by the Fatah Central Committee, has denied any contact or exchange of messages with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He said that he is still committed to his stand that opposes 'Arafat and the Fatah movement.

Resistance Operations in South Lebanon Reported

JN311745 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men are further escalating their heroic operations against Zionist invasion forces' personnel and equipment, as well as the agent militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon, inflicting more casualties and losses on them.

A group of resistance men attacked a Zionist military position in Sidon this morning. Using machine guns and rockets in their attack, the resistance men killed or injured several Zionist soldiers. Another group attacked a military position belonging to the agent militias of the army of southern Lebanon at the entrance to 'Arab Salim in occupied southern Lebanon this morning. The attack killed or injured several agent militiamen.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the two operations and, as usual, claimed that none of his forces or the agent militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon was hurt. He added that his forces immediately waged a large search campaign and arrested several Palestinian and Lebanese citizens under the pretext of looking for resistance men, who returned safely to their bases.

Al-Maqhur, Yamani View OPEC's Situation

LD311833 Vienna OPECNA in English 1739 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Vienna, 31 July 84 (OPECNA) — OPEC is determined to defend its decisions and no outside forces will be allowed to impose their conditions or designs on the organization's policies, Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur, president of the OPEC conference, said today.

In a statement, he said OPEC member countries continued to adhere to their quotas within the overall production ceiling of 17.5 million b/d.

With the production ceiling and national quotas being observed, "OPEC interests stay preserved," the OPEC conference president, also Libyan oil secretary, stated.

He told OPECNA that neither he nor the OPEC secretariat had received any request for an extraordinary meeting.

"Such consultations as were mandated by the OPEC conference earlier this month will take place in the coming weeks," he stated.

The 70th meeting of the OPEC conference which ended here 11 July had noted the market situation and decided that "every measure should be taken by all member countries to stabilize the market and defend the oil price structure".

The conference also decided to form delegations to visit member countries and to make necessary contacts with the governments concerned "with a view to further consolidating member countries' commitments to stabilize the market and to defend the price structure".

Noting that increased production by non-OPEC countries had "greatly contributed" to the recent market situation, the conference also decided to establish contacts with those countries "with a view to finding ways and means of enhancing cooperation between OPEC and those countries, in a joint effort to shoulder the responsibility of stabilizing the oil market and defending the oil price structure".

Meanwhile, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabian minister of petroleum and mineral resources, said Monday that it was vital that OPEC maintained current oil prices.

Speaking at the Welsh Centre for International Affairs in Cardiff, Wales, Yamani added "If we can go through the third quarter of this year," the situation would change for the better.

"The key to the situation is in the hands of this government of the United Kingdom," Yamani stressed, adding "if the price of North Sea oil stays at the same level for the coming quarter, I have no worries whatsoever".

He said if the British National Oil Corporation decided to make a small cut in the price of North Sea crude, "Then I can see a serious situation".

In that situation, Nigeria would be forced to lower its prices, North African producers would face similar pressure and "we might see another deterioration in the price of oil", Yamani warned.

He said that non-OPEC producers would be looking to Britain for a lead, adding that the outcome of the current situation was difficult to foresee "till we find out what is the decision of the British Government with regard to the price of oil".

Yamani pointed out that while Mexico had been cooperating with OPEC, and OPEC members themselves were doing what they could to maintain their 17.5 million b/d production ceiling, OPEC did not receive the same cooperation from Britain where production had risen to 2.5 million b/d and above, from 2.2 million b/d.

The Saudi Minister also said a price cut could result in serious banking problems, including bankruptcy in some small and middle-sized banks, in the United States.

KUWAIT

USSR Middle East Plan Welcomed, Supported

LD311449 Kuwait KUNA in English 1323 GMT 31 Jul 84

[By Salih Nazzal]

[Text] Kuwait, July 31 (KUNA) — Kuwait Tuesday welcomed the new Soviet proposals for a Mideast settlement and announced its support to the plan. Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad declared Kuwait's support to the charge d'affaires at the Soviet Embassy here, Mikhail Popov. Popov handed an official copy of the six-point Soviet proposal to Shaykh Sabah.

The Deputy premier told KUNA that Kuwait backs the new Soviet plan for solving the Middle East crisis. He expressed hopes that the proposals will be supported by all parties concerned and that they will finally lead to the establishment of permanent and just peace in the region.

The Soviet Union had called last Sunday for the importance [as received] of holding an international peace conference on the Middle East to be attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO, to discuss a comprehensive and durable peace settlement to the chronic problem. The Soviet proposals, carried by the official TASS news agency, called for a clearcut commitment to the non-use of force to seize other's territory and an unequivocal support to the stable and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and establishment of an independent state on Palestinian land.

The proposals urged Israel to relinquish occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in a few months transitory period including the eastern sector of Jerusalem which will be part and parcel of the Palestinian state. The proposals further stipulated guarantees to the right of all Mideast countries in existence, development and security on reciprocal basis.

They finally called for ending the state of war and for peace between Israel and the Arab countries and devising clear international guarantees for the settlement that could include the participation of permanent member countries at the Security Council [word indistinct] all members.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM Hits U.S.-Israeli Rejection of Plan

GF311224 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 31 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 31 Jul (WAKH) — The Kuwaiti newspaper *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM* has expressed the conviction that the U.S.-Israeli rejection of the new Soviet plan pertaining to a solution of the Middle East issue was not a surprise. The paper said that the two partners, Israel and the United States, have repeatedly turned down any plan launched under an international aegis or under the UN banner. The paper went on to say: Counting on Israel's military power and the fait accompli of occupation, the United States still insists on monopolizing the solution through means that ensure that the settlement will be purely American and not intermixed with any Soviet role. The paper pointed out that Washington enabled Israel to be stronger than all the Arab countries put together in the fields of weapons, and military technology. Moreover, the United States protected the Israeli expansion in the Arab territories and in all of Palestine to hold all the cards.

Following the success scored by Camp David accords, the U.S. wager on the region was lost owing to the resounding defeat of the Israeli and Atlantic invasion of Lebanon. The paper added that it is useful to note that the new Soviet plan was launched just after the publication of an article in the Soviet magazine *AL-AZMINAH AL-HADITHAH* in which a senior Soviet official created suspicions about the legitimacy of Israel as a state.

Concluding editorially, *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM* said that Israel has rejected the Soviet initiative and said that because the Soviet Union has not established diplomatic relations with Israel, it has no right to be a mediator. In other words, Israel fears that the article about its legitimacy is being studied in Soviet terms.

UAE

Zayid Receives Message From Sudan's Numayri

GF311846 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 31 Jul (WAKH) — UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri on the recent constitutional, political, and legislative developments in Sudan, explaining them in the wake of the new Islamic moves in Sudan. The message also discusses bilateral relations and means of strengthening them. The message was conveyed by 'Ali Shammu, Sudanese minister of information and culture, during this evening's meeting between Shaykh Zayid and the Sudanese delegation which includes Hashim 'Uthman, minister of foreign affairs, and Dr Yusuf Abu Bakr, chairman of the Supreme Council for Religious Affairs and Awqaf.

Kuwaiti Airliner Catches Fire at Dubai Airport

GF010954 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Dubayy, 1 Aug (WAKH) — Dubai International Airport sources have said that a fire broke out in a Kuwaiti plane in the airport this morning prior to its takeoff for Kuwait. Already on board were 322 passengers and as a result of the fire about 100 passengers suffered minor injuries and were transported to the airport clinic and to Al-Kuwayt Hospital for treatment. The sources said that the plane, a jumbo jet, was preparing for takeoff from Dubai Airport when a fire suddenly broke out in the cargo section of the plane. Firemen were able to control the fire and prevent it from reaching the remaining sections of the plane.

PDRY

Support for Soviet Peace Initiative Urged

GF311836 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jul 84

[From "The News and Comment" program by Ahmad Khaz'aq]

[Excerpts] It is obvious that Soviet initiative would be welcomed by the Palestinian national forces under the leadership of their struggling factions and by the Arab masses and the peace-loving forces and that it would be opposed by the Zionist entity and particularly the United States. The Palestinian issue has reached a dead end as a result of the Zionist conspiratorial stubbornness, the political blackmail practiced by the U.S. Administration and its imperialist allies, and the rejection of the initiatives and the just solutions which provide the circumstances for peace in the region through achieving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Thus, the new Soviet initiative is regarded as a significant factor for pushing the issue forward by finding a just solution to the Middle East crisis which is in harmony with the Palestinian and Arab stance.

The Soviet Union's initiative coincides with the UN secretary general's call last month for holding an international conference on the Middle East issue, and the signing of the Aden-Algiers agreement in Algiers on 13 July. It also coincides with the Palestinian national factions' insistence on their rejection of imperialist, seperatist, and capitulatory solutions, including the Camp David accords and the Reagan plan. This same stance is embodied in the Soviet initiative, thus showing the Soviet Union's concern for solving the Palestinian issue to achieve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and to achieve peace in the Middle East. It is also in harmony with the goals of the peace-loving countries, including the PDRY which has called for the holding of a periodic conference for solving the Middle East crisis with the participation of all concerned parties, including the PLO.

The negative stance adopted by the United States and the Zionist entity toward the initiative affirms their insistence to oppose any solution to the Palestinian issue. Since the Soviet initiative has been welcomed by the national factions of the Palestinian revolution within the framework of the PLO, such interest calls for supporting and aiding it to enable its crystallization. The international community is asked to work toward solving the Palestinian issue on the basis of UN resolutions which call for the holding of an international conference. The Soviet initiative follows this direction.

Islamic Jihad Said Responsible for Suez Blasts

NC010617 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization has claimed responsibility for the recent explosions in the Gulf of Suez. A spokesman for the organization has said that it has planted 190 mines in the Suez Canal and the Bab al-Mandab Strait. An Egyptian spokesman said the Egyptian authorities are investigating the five explosions and are taking stringent measures to guarantee the safety of navigation in the Gulf of Suez.

Canal Free of Mines

NC010911 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has confirmed that the Suez Canal is free of mines and said that all reports about this subject published abroad are unfounded. The foreign minister told reporters today that the cabinet's statement released yesterday explained this.

'Abd al-Majid Views Middle East Situation

PM010825 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jul 84 p 2

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid by Jamal 'Inayat and 'Abd al-Latif al-Minawi in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: The question of restoring Egyptian-Arab relations has been a matter of great interest for some time. Would you give us a likely scenario for the restoration of these relations?

Answer: I have already discussed this subject on more than one occasion. My view has always been that the two sides must get together. I prefer the term "getting together" than "return" on the grounds that what happened between us and some of the Arab brothers was a difference in views. Getting together means views becoming closer. I strongly believe that there is common ground between us and the Arab brothers. There is no doubt about this. Egypt and the Arab world are one single body and no member can be separated from it. Therefore, when we talk about Egyptian-Arab relations we immediately find that mutual relations do exist. The question of how these relations are to be restored now faces not only Egypt but also all the brothers on the grounds that both sides are required to take certain steps.

Question: In one of your recent statements you said: "I believe that we will make major strides in the field of relations with the Arabs if steps are taken by both sides and not just by one side." What do you mean by "both sides"?

Answer: Egypt did not initiate the boycott. I consider what happened the result of a certain emotionalism that occurred under the influence of certain conditions. I say that this is part of the past. We now should leave the past with all its memories and look toward the future. I believe that every party should think of what is required of it. All I can say is that Egypt imposes no conditions for the restoration of relations with the Arabs but, at the same time, it accepts no conditions being imposed on it. Egypt has its international obligations which it will honor and preserve.

We must hold talks and discussions in a calm, constructive, and objective manner. I am quite confident that all the parties are sincere in what they are striving for and that every Arab party is seeking a return to normalcy to achieve common interests. Once there is such a belief the road will be easy and the means will be available.

Question: U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy stated recently that the frustration of the countries of the area will increase if no new momentum is given to Reagan's initiative. What, in your view, is the likely framework for solving the Middle East problem?

Answer: Usually I prefer to read the full text of statements. However, I must say that Egypt supported Reagan's initiative on the grounds that it is an initiative by the U.S. Administration in an attempt to break the deadlock in the Middle East. But there are other initiatives, such as the Fes initiative which Egypt supports. There is also before the Security Council the Egyptian-French initiative which I participated in submitting on 30 June 1982 in my capacity as the permanent Egyptian UN delegate then. There is also the UN secretary general's initiative which calls for an international peace conference.

Therefore, there are several initiatives based on the desires of the parties submitting them. But, as the English proverb says: "Where there's a will, there's a way." But we still need this will and we are looking for it. The will that could move things in this direction has not yet materialized. For this will to materialize efforts are required from all parties, particularly the Arab parties. I once again demand that we should sit together and talk frankly, not to argue, quarrel, or attack one another because differences cannot be resolved this way and we would be wasting our time. Time for us is very precious.

Some would ask what the attitude of the U.S. side or the Israeli side will be? In my view tackling this subject in this manner is outdated and unscientific. Before I ask about the attitude of the other parties I should ask myself as an Arab bloc with considerable weight: What can I do?

I say that we should sit together as Arabs to settle our differences and agree what initiative we should support and what are the points of agreement and disagreement. In any case, what Egypt says in closed rooms it also says from the UN rostrum.

Question: According to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, the demand for an international conference on the Middle East will increase and will become more persistent, which might further complicate the situation. How far does Egyptian policy agree with the view that holding an international conference would complicate the situation?

Answer: The objective is to give momentum to the peace process. The U.S. side believes that Reagan's initiative has potential that would enable it to give momentum to the peace process. We support this view. There is also another view which says that the solution should be within the framework of an international conference. Egypt supports this view too. This means that we look into and give consideration to any possible means for giving momentum to the peace process.

Once again I would say that the Arab side must discuss, study, and evaluate matters. But if we continue to argue and criticize one another and adopt stands that are more ideological than practical, then we will not be able to move and the problem will become further complicated. We might hold a dialogue with the United States or the Soviet Union. All this is possible, but what is required first and foremost is to ask ourselves before we ask the others and define what we want.

Question: How do you view the nature of present Egyptian-Israeli relations and what is the likelihood of them developing negatively or positively?

Answer: As I have already said, we are committed to our international obligations. We believe that as long as there is an international obligation we must preserve it. We are preserving our obligations, and Israel is also supposed to preserve them and respect them. Certainly there are differences of views between Israel and us regarding certain provisions of the [Camp David] agreement. The talks on autonomy have stopped because we do not accept the Israeli interpretation of these provisions. We consider that the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is an inalienable and established right and there is no doubt about it.

When the Israeli intervention in Lebanon took place Egypt condemned it and considered it harmful to the situation in the Middle East. Egypt also condemned what happened in Sabra and Shatila and withdrew its ambassador. All these steps were an expression of the fact that Egypt adopts its stands on the basis of its principles and dogma and that the Israeli officials should heed and understand this. We adhere to the Palestinian people's right to determine their future and to the need for Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and from Lebanon and for a solution to the Tabah problem.I am saying this out of concern for future generations, because if there is willingness to proceed on the road to a peaceful settlement then we are ready for it because we are striving for stability in its wider sense and because any threat to peace in the area is a threat to the peace we are seeking.

Question: How do you view Egyptian-Soviet relations?

Answer: Diplomatic relations did in fact exist between Egypt and the Soviet Union. Now we have raised the level of diplomatic representation from charge d'affaires to Ambassador. Thus we have not established new relations or resumed broken ones.

Question: How do you view the nature of Egyptian-U.S. relations?

Answer: The United States is a superpower and has interests in the area. I do not believe that there is a contradiction between these interests and having stability. I feel that there are common interests and friendship between Egypt and the United States.

Question: What about Egyptian-Palestinian relations?

Answer: Contacts between Egypt and the PLO are continuing and Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] visit to President Mubarak last December was a good start which pleased us all. I can only say that we hope for more contacts, greater support, and further Egyptian-Palestinian rapprochement.

Al-Baz Interviewed on USSR Role in Middle East

NC010932 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs, has denied that Egypt has reservations over the convening of an international conference on the Middle East. He asked how Egypt could have reservations, having initiated this proposal in 1973. Dr al-Baz said that Egypt only concentrates on the presence of both superpowers to shoulder their responsibilities and stop hindering the international conference. In a statement published today in the weekly *AKHIR SA'AH*, Dr al-Baz stressed that Egypt is not opposed to any role by the Soviet Union.

He said that the term full partner is not theoretically given to the Soviet Union, pointing out that the Soviet Union must give priority to the Middle East problem. To be called a full partner, the Soviet Union must really contribute to, and participate in making the Middle East issue a pivotal and political one, as well as make proposals and exert pressure. Dr al-Baz further said: Through its contacts with the United States, its international moves, expression of readiness and intent for peace and with contacts with various parties and the adoption of policies and instructions that help establish peace, the Soviet Union can impose itself and lend presence to the peace process, in spite of Israel.

Dr al-Baz added: If we want to be realistic and earnest, we must say that the current picture does not present a possibility for holding an international conference soon. Such a conference may convene in 2 years time. Convening such a conference requires some moves because it cannot emerge from a vacuum.

Dr al-Baz emphasized that Arab interests require steady and continuous progress on the path to peace. He warned that if the present situation continues unchanged in the occupied territory without Arab counterproposals, the present settlements will be intensified and a larger number of Palestinians will leave for Jordan and other countries. He said that if things were to be left as they are for 2 more years, it will be difficult to change the situation in the future, with dwindling hopes for the West Bank and Gaza people to change it.

Speaking about the Egyptian initiative to contain the Gulf war, Dr al-Baz said that Egypt made the overture through the Nonaligned Movement because the continuation of the war is not in the interests of other parties and harms them, the Gulf States, and the countries of the region in general; it opens up room for foreign intervention. Al-Baz disclosed that Iraq showed certain reservations over the Egyptian initiative, saying this is natural. He said that the Iranians may do the same and show reservations, or express their views on the initiative when they change their stand and agree to end the war.

Al-Baz said that Egypt considers Iran a friendly and fraternal country because it is an Islamic state of the Middle East and a nonaligned country. He affirmed that Egypt is always ready to improve relations with Iran because the Iranian people are a friendly and allied people regardless of the policies being pursued.

Concluding his statement, Al-Baz said that Egypt's readiness to hold contacts with any Arab side is contingent upon normal readiness by this side and consistent with strategic pan-Arab interests.

Ghali on Implications of Israeli Elections

PM311551 Paris LE MONDE in French 31 Jul 84 p 3

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali by Jean Gueyras in Paris — date not given]

[Text] While passing through Paris, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali informed us of his "keen disappointment" at the Israeli election results. "We would have liked," he said, "a Knesset which would have made possible a strong government with which we would have been able to talk. This is far from being the case. We have no particular preference: The Labor Party proposes beginning a new dialogue with new ideas, but it must not be forgotten that it is with the Likud that we signed the peace treaty. Now we will have at most only a fragile national unity whose essential aim will be to settle Israel's economic problems. This can only be accomplished to the detriment of the Palestinian people, since the two principal interlocutors will continue their settlements policy."

The Egyptian minister therefore believes that there is little chance that relations between Egypt and Israel, frozen since March 1979, can improve. "Our relations could change if the Israelis withdraw from Lebanon and alter their policy on the Palestinians on the West Bank and in Gaza, where the situation is deteriorating from day to day.... It is true that peace continues to reign between our two countries, but the positive aspects of normalization are neutralized by a negative element: Our diplomatic activity was part of a comprehensive peace, and we hoped that the Camp David agreements would serve as a precedent for a series of other agreements which would lead to a comprehensive solution to the Near East crisis."

Does he still hope that the Palestinian aspect of the Camp David agreements will be realized some day? "We have never claimed," he replied, "to have a monopoly over the solution to the Palestinian problem. If we can resolve this Palestinian aspect through Camp David, why not? Through an international conference? In that case we would be in favor of an international conference. If the Arab states ever find a formula, such as the Fes formula, we will support that formula. Remember that it is we who sponsored, with France, the famous resolution which is still on the Security Council's agenda."

Mr Butrus Ghali disputes claims that this Franco-Egyptian resolution was shelved to give the Reagan plan a chance. "We simply kept it in reserve," he said, "because the Americans let us know that they would use their right of veto."

As far as we are concerned, he added, the important thing is to keep the international public's attention on the Palestinian problem and to prevent its being relegated "to second or third position." He believes that this is what is happening now. "Consider," he said, "the attitude of the Europe of the Ten at the time of the Venice declaration, and consider its position now. A very serious erosion has occurred there.... The inaction is tragic for the Palestinians, whose situation is steadily deteriorating."

Mr Butrus Ghali is keen to dispel any misunderstandings about Egypt's stance on the Palestinian people's "national rights."

"Our position," he stressed, "is very clear: We are in favor of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, including their right to create their own state."

However, he does not believe that the Palestinians should now form a government in exile. "We long envisaged such a solution, because it could have had an impact on international public opinion. Now I believe that the important thing is for the Palestinians to settle their contradictions and divergences. There is often talk of an 'Egyptian option.' We are indeed in favor of any initiative able to give a new impetus to the Palestinian issue and to prevent our being confronted with something new — the annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip — in a matter of months or years. When there are no longer any territories to give the Palestinians it will no longer be possible to make peace. So the 'Egyptian option' is designed to safeguard Palestinian specificity on the West Bank and in Gaza, whereas Israel's policy is to destroy that specificity.... As long as there are 1.5 million Palestinians who maintain their institutions in occupied territories it will be possible to negotiate and find a solution. But if the Palestinians ever lose their specificity and become a 'lumpen proletariat' it will be as though we had lost those territories."

'Abd al-Majid on Mubarak's Visit to Yugoslavia

NC010940 Cairo MENA in English 0910 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Cairo, Aug 1 (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Yugoslavia slated to start on Monday comes within the framework of Egypt's drive at the international level to solve the Middle East problems and of its endeavour to consolidate its economic, political and military relations with various world countries. In his statement to reporters, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that halting the Iraq-Iran war is an international human demand adding that Egypt as a nonaligned country moves in all directions to stop this hemorrhage.

On Egypt's contacts with India to halt the Gulf war, the minister said that the Indian leadership fully appreciates Egypt's role in this respect.

Ghali Makes Statement on Cairo's Regional Role

NC311858 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed that political contacts between Egypt and the Arabs have not stopped. He said that through its physical and influential presence in every Arab country, Egypt has continued to perform its mission and to give generously. In a statement published by the Kuwaiti newspaper *AS-SIYASAH*, Dr Ghali explained that Egypt's vanguard role in the Arab world dictates that it should always maintain even handed relations with the two superpowers, because the Arab world has suffered from the dangerous polarization that has weakened it.

Discussing Egypt's relations with the PLO, Dr Ghali stressed that these relations existed before and after PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo. He explained that Egypt does not want to impose on the PLO any certain plan or any certain framework. What Egypt seeks — and it is supported by Jordan in this — is to arrive at a formula the PLO will accept for entering negotiations that will include all parties concerned with the problem.

Discussing Egyptian-Soviet relations, Dr Ghali said the exchange of ambassadors between Cairo and Moscow is a practical application of the nonaligned policy in which Egypt believes. He stressed that through its role within the Nonaligned Movement, Egypt can adopt a positive stand toward the cold war, which has begun to characterize international relations and which has consequently increased current international tension.

'Abd al-Majid Calls for African Ministers Meeting

NC311451 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid today proposed that the African foreign ministers meet during the coming session of the UN General Assembly to discuss the difficulties facing the convening of the 20th African summit conference, and to agree on the date and place of the conference. This proposal was conveyed during 'Abd al-Majid's meeting with the Ivorian ambassador in Cairo today. During the meeting, they also reviewed relations between Egypt and the Ivory Coast, and the two countries' role in safeguarding the African Continent's unity. Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid stressed the importance of good preparation for the 20th summit conference. In this regard, he also referred to Egypt's efforts with the African countries to overcome the obstacles facing the conference.

Somali President's Envoy Departs Cairo

NC311853 Cairo MENA in English 1830 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Cairo, July 31 (MENA) — Brigadier (Abd al-Hamid Abd Hussein), envoy of the Somali president and commander of the Revolutionary Guard, left here tonight for home after a week-long visit during which he conveyed a message to President Husni Mubarak from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre on bilateral relations and Arab and African developments.

Briefs

DPRK Envoy — Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid received in his office today DPRK Ambassador to Cairo Kang Man-su on the occasion of his transfer home at the end of his term of office in Cairo. [Excerpt] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 31 Jul 84 NC]

Armed Forces Issues Communique No 1,543

JN311727 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Communique No 1,543 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 31 July 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces in the operational sectors continued to defend the territory of great Iraq against the forces of the unjust Khomeyniite evil and aggression. The results of the activities for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Using artillery and other weapons, our forward units pounded enemy targets and a number of enemy positions in the operational area east of Basra, killing three and destroying one excavator and two arms depots.

2. A number of our helicopters today carried out brave, effective combat missions against enemy positions in the northern sector of the operational field. Our helicopters and their pilots returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. One of our forward units used various weapons to deal with enemy positions and troop concentrations in the central sector of the operational theater, killing three, wounding others, and destroying one hardware stockpile and one infantry position. Fire was seen in other enemy position in the same sector.

4. Two were killed, others were wounded, and one infantry position was destroyed in the Maysan operational sector.

5. One enemy vehicle was destroyed in the northern sector of the operational field. It has also been confirmed to us that contrary to the losses reported in our Communique No 1,538 on 26 July 1984, the losses were 72 dead.

6. At 2200 [1800 GMT] yesterday, the vile enemy shelled the village of (Bayara) in the Halabjah District with heavy artillery. The shelling martyred one citizen, wounded five others, demolished one house, and damaged one vehicle and some orchards.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 31 Jul 1984

Ramadan Confers With France's Cresson 31 Jul

JN311556 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received French Minister of Foreign Trade Edith Cresson and her delgation. During the meeting, they completed the talks she has held with Iraqi officials in order to develop and expand cooperation in all fields in the interest of the people of the two friendly countries.

Taha Yasin Ramadan and Mrs Edith Cresson expressed their satisfaction with the progress of relations between Iraq and France, and stressed their serious desire to promote these relations in the joint interest of the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Oil Qasim Ahmad Taqi, Baghdad Mayor 'Abd al-Wahab al-Mufti, and the French ambassador in Baghdad.

Cresson Departs

JN311741 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA) — Mrs Edith Cresson, French minister of foreign trade, left Baghdad this evening after a 4-day visit to Iraq. In a predeparture statement, Cresson said that her talks with Iraqi officials were very positive and that they will reinforce the developing relations between both countries. She added that her visit is an effective contribution to strengthening and consolidating Iraqi-Frech cooperation in various spheres.

Saudi Paper Interviews Oil Minister Taqi

GF311420 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Ad-Dammam, 31 Jul (WAKH) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi has criticized some of the OPEC members.

In a statement carried by the Saudi newspaper *AL-YAWM* he said that it is regrettable that some OPEC members adopt selfish positions and seek benefit for themselves without considering whether it affects other member countries. He noted that some of the countries infringe upon OPEC resolutions which they themselves have approved, and sell their oil through various means below the official rates, resulting in direct or indirect discounts. Taqi believes that such violations will lead to deterioration in oil production and to a drop in rates which will harm equally all the countries.

Qasim Ahmad criticized the policies of the industrial countries and of the International Energy Agency toward OPEC. He said that this policy is designed to weaken OPEC, reduce its capability to act, and weaken its influence. These policies include taking advantage of the member countries' increased production by increasing oil storage, then using these reserves to pressure the market at will.

The Iraqi oil minister hoped that the OPEC will remain coherent and that it will have a role — as it did in the past — in achieving the rights of the member countries and standing up to foreign monopoly. He also hoped that OPEC will be dominated by objectivity and that member countries would refrain from harming OPEC, as this would lead to its demolition and consequently to the disintegration and weakening of its influence on the oil market.

Answering a question on the effect of the Iraqi siege of Khark Island on the economy of Iran, the Iraqi oil minister said: It is well-known that the Iranian economy relies heavily on its oil revenues and that any drop in revenues will have a direct effect on the Iranian economy. He asserted that the siege of Khark Island has intensified the economic situation in Iran. This is proved by recently published reports on Iran's inability to pay $10 million interest on Japanese investment in the Iranian petrochemical project.

Qasim Ahmad expected an increase in Iraq's capability to export oil. He said: As for the increase in export capacity, we have enlarged the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline. Its export capacity has risen from 700,000 barrels a day to about 900,000 barrels a day. The export capacity will reach about 1 million barrels a day at the end of this month.

On the current methods being used to export Iraqi oil, the Iraqi minister said that after the suspension of oil exports via Iraq's southern ports and the suspension of pumping through the Syrian pipeline, we were left with the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline. The maximum capacity of this line will reach 1 million barrels by the end of this month. He pointed out that small quantities of oil, estimated at 25,000 barrels, are exported daily by trucks across Jordanian and Turkish territory.

As for the oil pipeline which the GCC plans to constructto reach the Arabian Sea, the Iraqi oil minister said: Iraq has officially expressed the desire to participate in this line. This desire has been conveyed to the GCC oil ministers.

Ahnad Taqi also talked about plans to export Iraqi oil. He said: We are seriously considering building a new export line across Saudi Arabia. The designs for this project have been completed and the tender papers have been distributed to a number of companies. We feel that there is positive cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the completion of this project.

He pointed out that a plan to construct a line across Jordanian territory to the Gulf of Aqabais being considered . He added: While this plan is still under consideration, a final decision on some of the details will be made.

Referring to the export of liquified gas, he said: There are plans to export liquified gas to the world via Turkey. Advisers have finished an economic study of this project. A meeting will be held shortly with Turkish officials to discuss consequent steps.

Kurdish Factions Report KDP-KSPI Clash

GF311646 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1250 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpt] On 20 July, while carrying out a special task in [name indistinct], forces of the KDP clashed with a force from its ally the Kurdistan Socialist Party in Iraq [KSPI]. Regretfully, several Peshmerga were wounded. While expressing sorrow over this incident, the KDP apologizes in the spirit of unity and alliance to its ally, especially to the wounded from both sides and wishes them a speedy recovery.

The two parties, the KDP and the KSPI, are allied within the framework of the national democratic front. As brotherly and allied parties, they are capable of fraternally solving any problem arising between them in the spirit of alliance.

Soviet Official Arrives in Amman 31 Jul

JN311447 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Amman, 31 Jul (PETRA) —Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Middle Eastern Countries Department at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs [title as received], arrived in Amman today on a 3-day official visit, during which he will meet with a number of Jordanian officials. He was received at Queen 'Alya' International Airport by the Foreign Ministry secretary general, the Jordanian ambassador in Moscow, and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Amman.

Meets Al-Masri

JN011252 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri today received Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Middle Eastern Countries Department at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After the meeting, Al-Masri said that the main subject of discussion was the Soviet proposals regarding a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and the convening of an international conference for peace in the region. Al-Masri welcomed the ideas presented by the Soviet proposals and explained that within their general framework, these proposals will help achieve a just, peaceful solution. He also noted that they are similar to a large extent to the ideas presented in 1982 by former USSR President Brezhnev. At that time, Jordan announced that it welcomed these ideas. The foreign minister also reiterated that any settlement in the Middle East should be based on Israel's full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and guarantee the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He also said that any call for peace should be based on Security Council Resolution No 242, and that the duty of any forthcoming international conference is to implement that resolution which prohibits the occupation of territories by force and guarantees the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He also called for flexibility in implementing the Soviet proposals, and welcomed any constructive and positive role by the Soviet Union in order to reach a just, peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis.

Daily Views Soviet Middle East Proposals

JN010917 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Aug 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Required Consensus To Achieve Peace," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: In the same measure that the Soviet call for convening an international conference to discuss the Middle East crisis is realistic, balanced and a proper framework to give impetus to the peace process, it faces difficulties and obstacles that make the achievement of peace unattainable due to international differences regarding the concept of the conference; also to blame is the U.S.-Israeli opposition to any international or Arab attempt to extricate the Middle East conflict from the present stalemate.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B continues: In this regard, all past international efforts have failed. There will be no means to achieve the consensus that would guarantee the success of this conference as long as the United States insists on the method of partial solutions outside the international framework, and as long as Israel ignores the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the international community. Israeli-U.S. agreement on the concept of an international conference would automatically mean admitting that all the partial and unilateral steps that have taken place under U.S. auspices had failed. It would additionally mean that the course adopted by Washington to divide the Middle East problem and bypass the crux of the problem — the Palestinian people and their national rights in their land — has also failed.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: The Israeli onslaught against the Palestinians in Lebanon, its attempt to end the legitimate side of the Lebaense issue, and the weak Arab stand toward this is further justification for believing that the United States and Israel can delete the Palestinian factor or role in the Middle East crisis. The call for convening an international peace confernece and for recognizing the Palestinian role as a direct party to the issue of peace, is a call for restoring interest to the question of the Palestinian people and is an essential, humane and legitimate basis for settling Middle East problems.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: The difficulties that face this call must not stop Jordan from supporting and promoting it within the international community. To make it a framework on which the world will be unanimous, the international community can exert efforts to achieve a comprehensive solution under an international canopy, especially after the failure of other means based on isolating the cause from its historic roots and its other international dimensions.

Further SAWT ASH-SHA'B Comment

JN311144 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Jul 84 pp 1, 19

[Dispatch from Hamadah Al-Fara'inah, Isa ash-Shawabikah, and Muhammad Dawudiyah in Amman, Damascus, and Tunis]

[Excerpt] The Soviet peace initiative was welcomed on a large scale by Jordanian and Palestinian circles, which described it as being in harmony with the Palestinian people's legitimate interests and their rights to return, self determination, and the establishment of their independent state. These circles also said that the initiative presents a mechanism for a comprehensive, just peace in the region. This came in interviews by *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* with 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives; Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masr; the Soviet charge d'affaires in Amman; PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department; and Dr Jamal Ash-Sha'ir.

'Akif al-Fayiz said: We are interested in a just, comprehensive peace in the region — peace that could guarantee and realize Arab rights. We in Jordan support peace. We support an international conference on the Middle East. Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn have called for such a conference.

Al-Fayiz said: The issue of peace in the Middle East should be discussed in an international conference because the UN resolutions remain ink on paper. The problem can only be solved through an international conference.

Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said: We support this initiative and our stand is well known. This was clear in Jordan's position on the Brezhnev's Middle East plan. We discussed this issue in the Foreign Ministry and we will discuss it with the Soviet official who will arrive in Jordan today.

Soviet Charge d'Affaires Vladimir Vodyakhin said that [V.P.] Polyakov, chief of the Middle East department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry [name and title as received] and the former USSR ambassador to Egypt will arrive in Amman today. He said the visit is aimed at consulting the Jordanian officials on the Middle East situation. Views will be exchanged and the Soviet peace plan will be discussed.

He said the plan answers many questions such as: What is an international conference? Which are the parties involved in this conference? What is the platform on which the conference will work, and what are the principles on which Middle East peace should be established?

When asked on whether or not there were U.S.-Soviet consultations in advance about the Soviet plan, the charge d'affaires said he had no details.

PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum said: We believe that this is the only serious initiative by any foreign side. It is in harmony with the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights and it affirms their rights to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of their independent state.

Al-Fahum said: We agree on these proposals because they are in harmony with the PNC resolutions. It is well known that during its 16th session, the PNC approved the principles put forward by the late President Brezhnev and approved the Fes summit resolutions. The Soviet proposals present the mechanism for a just political settlement in the region.

PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi described the initiative as indicative of a firm desire and determination to find a just solution to the problem of the Palestinian people. He said the PLO views the initiative positively.

He added that the Palestinian people, who have been struggling to restore their rights, support international initiatives for a just solution in the region in which the PLO can take part and which guarantees the Palestinian people's return to their land and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. He also said that an international conference in which all sides take part is the ideal means of a comprehensive and just solution.

Dr Jamal ash-Sha'r said: For a long time, the Soviet position has been characterized by supporting the Arab cause, particularly the Palestinian cause. Therefore, this plan must be taken with due earnestness and respect and with mutual trust.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Arab Relations

PM311341 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 28 Jul-3 Aug 84 pp 17,18

[Interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri by Lima Nabil in Amman — date not given]

[Excerpts][Lima Nabil] What in your opinion is the secret behind the insistence on holding an international conference on the Middle East? Do you expect such a conference, if it is held, to lead to real changes in the political balances and stances in the area?

[Tahir al-Masri] When we called for holding an international conference to solve the Middle East problem we did so in order to reach a peaceful solution to the Middle East problems, particularly the Palestinian problem. There is no doubt that if things proceed as we would like them to, the international conference is held, and all goes well, then this means that an agreement will be reached among the parties concerned on the basis of UN Resolution 242. There is no doubt that such an agreement will have a general beneficial effect not only on the area but also on international peace and areas of tension in other parts of the world.

[Lima Nabil] But certain parties to the conflict, including the PLO, have reservations regarding UN Resolution 242, which is the basis for convening the conference.

[Tahir al-Masri] PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat often talks about the UN resolutions and the extent of his acceptance of those resolutions. On this point I am speaking on behalf of the Jordanian Government. We believe that the objective of an international conference would be to establish Resolution 242. The PLO's objection to the resolution is based on the fact that it does not refer to the Palestinians and considers them refugees. But the presence of the PLO as one of the parties concerned and its participation in the conference would mean overcoming this controversial point in particular. Although recognition is not in the text of the resolution, this would be an indirect amendment of it. The PLO will be sitting in the conference as a party to it to discuss peaceful solutions.

[Lima Nabil] Is there hope of such a conference succeeding?

[Tahir al-Masri] The only obstacle to convening the conference is Israel, which is a real hindrance that cannot be belittled. But I cannot see why this conference should not succeed if it is held. We want all the parties concerned to approve its meeting, and in cooperation with everybody we shall do all we can in order to succeed.

[Lima Nabil] During the UN secretary general's visit several alternatives for ending the Middle East problem were proposed. What are these alternatives?

[Tahir al-Masri] Certain alternatives were proposed, including taking the problem back to the Security Council. But I believe that convening an international conference is the best alternative we have at present.

[Lima Nabil] Have you reached a common Jordanian-Palestinian view with the PLO to submit to the peace conference if it is held?

[Tahir al-Masri] We have not yet reached such a view, although we are looking forward to doing so. We will strive to reach a common view if the possibility of holding the conference becomes certain.

[Lima Nabil] The Western media speak about the imminent restoration of Jordanian-Syrian relations to their normal state. Is there anything new on the horizon of these relations?

[Tahir al-Masri] There is nothing new on the horizon. We are committed to our line and policy toward sisterly Syria, both on the level of the media and on other levels. It also appears that the Syrian media have toned down their attacks on Jordan, but we can perceive no other signs. With regard to trade relations, they have been proceeding normally from the beginning. They have now probably increased because of increased agricultural production due to an increase in a particular crop. There has never been any obstacle with regard to agricultural trade.

[Lima Nabil] Is there anything new in Jordanian-Egyptian relations?

[Tahir al-Masri] No. Relations are normal, good, and getting better. Egypt will gradually return to the Arab ranks because that will always be a clear advantage to the Arab world.

[Lima Nabil] Elections will take place in the United States, and other elections have already taken place in Israel. Jordan is among many countries awaiting the outcome of these elections. What exactly do you expect from these elections, and what are their potential effects on Jordanian policy?

[Tahir al-Masri] We do not expect much from these elections. We have analyzed every word the Labor Party and its leader Shim'on Peres have said. Peres said attractive things about what he was going to do, but when he spoke in detail we found that his policy is not much different from that of the Likud. For instance, he talks about halting settlements in heavily populated areas. By this Peres is not offering anything much to Jordan and the Arab countries. With regard to the United States, we Arabs always await the outcome of elections in this or that country, but this has never led to any positive results. I cannot see how Reagan II is going to be different from Reagan I. U.S. policy has become so close to Israel, and their strategic alliance is tightly knit. I cannot see how Reagan II can change this policy which he himself has been practicing and has been giving every support as recently as a few months ago. However, as a country which is part of the region and lives its daily events, and as a country that has a constant and balanced policy with an open mind to any new ideas, we will keep our ears open to whatever Reagan or others may suggest. However, our experience with the United States in the past few years does not encourage us to have much optimism about a basic U.S. change.

[Lima Nabil] Recently Jordan turned toward some East European countries to obtain arms after the United States refused to give its arms. Does this mean a Jordanian inclination toward the Eastern bloc?

[Tahir al-Masri] Never. We have specific armament needs. From time to time we need to buy new arms. Our arms are still mostly Western. The U.S. Congress refused to sell us arms and it is our right to turn to any source that meets our requirements. This source is not only the Eastern bloc countries. Rather, our search for sources of arms includes several countries, including Britain, Italy, and France. We buy arms from any source, but this does not change our stands. Nor do we believe that our political will will be under the countrol of the country from which we buy arms. As I said, most of our arms come from the United States, but we are prepared to turn to the Soviet Union or any other country if we find that our requirements are going to be met.

[Lima Nabil] Recently there has been a positive development in Jordanian-Chinese relations, particularly with regard to supplying arms to the Jordanian people's Army and providing training. What has happened in this regard?

[Tahir al-Masri] We have had talks with the Chinese officials which have led to an agreement in principle under which China will provide the Jordanian people's Army with light weapons and will train its commanders. But no final agreement has yet been reached and delegations on both sides are still continuing their talks. No final agreement has been signed.

JORDAN TIMES Analyzes Israeli Elections

JN311003 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jul 84 p 4

[By Rami G. Khouri]

[Text] The results of the Israeli general elections are being interpreted in many different ways, though in the Arab World the assessment is generally gloomy. I would like to disagree, and propose a more detached, and less pessimistic, assessment of what the Israeli people have just done.

For starters, we should realise that the Israeli elections were emphatically not a referendum on war and peace. Thus, it is a naive mistake for Arab analysts to point to the election results as proof of the Israeli people's new hardline attitude to the Arabs in general, and to the Palestinians in particular. The questions of the status of the occupied West Bank and Gaza and the possibilities of new peace talks with the Arabs were both relatively low on the list of issues that dominated the election campaign. Lebanon, the economy, social and religious issues and the Sephardi/ Ashkenazi allocation of power were the key issues, not the question of peace with the Arab World.

This in itself is telling, for it highlights the bitter reality that ravages our capacity to deal effectively with the challenge of Zionism and Israel — the reality of an Israeli state that controls all of Palestine, along with parts of Syria and Lebanon, and an Israeli people that has many other more pressing priorities to deal with than the question of peace with the Arabs.

From the Arab side, there is a major unresolved problem in the issue of Palestinian rights. But from the Israeli perspective, this is a minor issue that can either be ignored or dealt with purely on Israeli terms, with the support of the American government for most, though not all, of the Israeli positions.

In such a context of psychological despair, physical subjugation, and military pacification — not to mention being ignored and/or taken for granted by the big powers — the Arab world tends to view whatever happens within Israel as evidence of the inevitable historical disintegration of the Zionist state, or the economic collapse of an untenable colonial outpost, or the shredding apart of the social fabric of an artificial Israeli society, or some other cataclysmic process that sees Israel as a dying spent society destined to collapse upon itself from sheer exhaustion, artificiality and illegitmacy.

I am not at all convinced by this sort of thinking, and tend to believe that part of the intensity of the Arab assault on the Israeli elections stems from an awkward sense of jealousy. When was the last time popularly elected Arab political parties scrambled like cats to form a coalition government? When was the last time an Arab prime minister had to resign and call elections after losing a parliamentary vote of confidence? Is it worth 400 per cent inflation?

Nevertheless, the results of the Israeli election have some bright spots, vis-a-vis the attitude of Israelis to Palestinians and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole. Given that the Palestine issue was low on people's minds, the final results show that Israeli parties with a "reasonable" attitude to the Palestine issue have actually gained in strength.

The last Knesset had 56 members from Israeli parties that one could expect to deal with, with a reasonable prospect of making progress on peace, namely Labour, the Communist Party, Shinuy, and the Citizens Rights Movement. In the last election, the number of "reasonable" Israeli parties' seats in the Knesset increased to 59, including Labour, the Communists, Shinuy, the Citizens Rights Movement, Yahad and the Progressive List for Peace.

What do I mean by a reasonable attitude to the Palestinian issue? I mean, simply an attitude that is open to negotiations, to a return of territory, to an exchange of land for peace, to the concept of Palestinian rights, to the simple idea that the Palestinians are a people who have rights similar to the rights demanded — and now exercised — by the people of Israel.

I do not expect any Israeli party unilaterally to meet my terms for peace. But I do expect Israelis to realise more and more, with every war, occupation and resistance, that the political disenfranchisement of the Palestinians can only be resolved by — you guessed it — political enfranchisement, or national self-determination.

It will take a while, and considerable negotiating skill and patience, for the Arabs to elicit such a position from a majority of Israelis. Many Israelis will have to change, just as many Palestinians changed between the early 1950's and the early 1980's, decades during which the Palestinians reluctantly came to terms with the idea of living side-by-side with an Israeli state. If we changed — if the Arabs as a whole changed from the rejectionist days of the Khartoum Arab summit to the pragmatic days of the Fez Arab summit — is it possible that the Israelis could also change over time? Is it possible that the Israelis are humans, too, who evolve over time, discern pragmatism in their enemies, and ultimately make compromises to achieve the most important of their stated objectives?

Yes, and I believe we are seeing signs of such changes already. If we are not so wrapped up in the stultifying frustration of our own political immobility, we should take our minds and our courage out of our back pockets and dare to look more closely at the trends within the Israeli parliamentary elections and Israeli society as a whole. Recent polls have confirmed the trend of the past several years, of a majority of Israelis accepting the principle of exchanging occupied territory for peace, and freezing settlements. But, you say, the Israelis are only fooling, and are incapable of real change. I wonder: How many Arab heads of state would have signed their name in 1962 or 1972 to the same document they signed at Fez in 1982? Do Arabs mature and change, but Israelis do not?

Clearly, Israelis will not hand us peace on our conditions on a silver platter. But neither will we get anywhere if we just kick ourseles in the pants and hallucinate on the fantasies of a disintegrating Israel that we claim to see more clearly every time the Israelis hold an election. There are forces at work within Israel that hold out some promise of fruitful negotiations towards and Arab-Israeli settlement we could live with. If we simply dismiss them as minnows in the path of the rightwing, militaristic sharks that we claim truly represent the soul of Israel, then we risk the danger of allowing our own political despair to promote precisely this self-fulfilling prophecy — and when dealing with the Israelis, one generally tries to stay out of the prophecy business.

'Ubaydat Urges Support for Aqaba Development

JN311530 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jul 84 p 3

[Text] Aqaba (J.T.) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat has instructed the Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) to start work on plans to organise the poor districts in Aqaba. These plans should be worked out in co-operation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and the Housing Corporation and should provide public sewers and improve water supplies, the prime minister said.

Mr 'Ubaydat was speaking at a meeting here attended by several cabinet members and directors of local government departments as well as the city's mayor and ARA Director Muhammad Sa'id Abu Nuwwar.

"The government is keen on helping the municipality in its drive to improve public services to citizens, and is planning to establish an industrial zone in Aqaba that should be operational by early next year," the prime minister said. He also said that all government departments and the public sector are requested to work with the utmost effort and sincerity to develop the Aqaba region in all fields. "The government wants to ensure that regulations and laws it has issued in accordance with King Husayn's directives are applied in the development of Aqaba to achieve the aspired objectives," Mr 'Ubaydat added.

"Team Spirit"

Referring to the administrative and technical obstacles impeding the work of the ARA, Mr 'Ubaydat said that these can be solved once the good intentions, mutual trust, sincerity and loyalty are established as a working basis. "Projects should be carried out with a team spirit because the responsibility is common, and therefore co-operation is essential if success is to be achieved," the prime minister said.

Mr 'Ubaydat also expressed his satisfaction with the measures taken by the Aqaba Port Authority for the protection of environment and the steps to clean the area around the port. He urged ARA staff to establish a section to handle environmental problems at the port. This would group representatives from the ministries of health and municipal and rural affairs, he said.

Development Impetus

The prime minister expressed hope that the meeting would mark the start of a series of meetings designed to give impetus to development and progress in Aqaba.

Mr Abu Nuwwar briefed the meeting on the achievements of ARA since its establishment five months ago. He also outlined the ARA's development programmes.

Ministers and directors of developments, who spoke later, presented briefings on their programmes for developing the Aqaba region.

Aqaba Mayor Salih Al-Kabariti said that the local inhabitants were looking forward to the implementation of the ARA's projects and he presented a number of requests he had received from Aqaba citizens.

Mr 'Ubaydat, accompanied by several cabinet members, arrived here Saturday evening on a two-day inspection visit and for meetings with local officials. This is Mr 'Ubaydat first inspection visit to Aqaba since he was appointed prime minister earlier this year.

Chamber of Commerce Group Returns From Syria

JN010922 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Aug 84 pp 1, 22

[Excerpts] Amman — *AR-RA'Y* — Hamdi at-Tabba', president of the union of the Jordanian chambers of commerce, returned to Amman yesterday after a 3-day visit to Damascus.

In a statement to *AR-RA'Y* on the aims of the visit, At-Tabba' said: We held talks with the Syrian ministers of supply and economy and foreign trade with the aim of coordinating trade between the two countries on more than one level. The Syrian side showed understanding and readiness toward promoting the exchange of goods between the two fraternal countries.

At-Tabba' is scheduled to meet with Industry and Trade Minister Jawad al-'Anani to brief him on what was agreed on in Damascus.

Reportage on Hijacked Air France Plane

Hijackers Insist on Landing

NC311933 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1922 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The latest information available to us says the hijacked Air France airliner has just crossed Italian airspace from the northeast. The pilot contacted Cyprus International Airport and asked authorities to inform Beirut International Airport that the airliner will arrive there at 0000 [2100 GMT].

Immediately, the interior minister instructed airport authorities to close the airport. Fire engines blocked the eastern and western runways at 2215. The pilot has been informed of the airport closure, but the hijackers insisted that Beirut Airport be informed that they will arrive at 0000.

Airport To Refuse Landing

NC311821 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1820 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpt] It has been learned from a reliable source at Geneva Airport that the hijacked French plane took off tonight from Geneva en route to Beirut.

Sources at Beirut Airport have reported that the airport will refuse to receive the French plane.

Obstacles Placed Along Runway

NC312014 Paris AFP in English 2010 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Beirut, July 31 (AFP) — Obstacles were placed along the runway of Beirut Airport tonight as a hijacked Air France Boeing 737 entered Greek airspace en route to the Lebanese airport. Lebanese officials said that Beirut had been closed to all traffic at 1930 GMT (10:30 p.m.) and that the runway was blocked.

The sources said that the Lebanese authorities had not been informed officially that the hijacked airliner wanted to land at Beirut, where all lights had been doused on the orders of acting Interior Minister Joseph Skaf.

As the Boeing flew into Greek airspace, carrying 58 passengers and six crew, the captain radioed that he had enough fuel left for three hours flying time. The aircraft was seized on a scheduled flight from Frankfurt to Paris and then landed at Geneva to refuel.

A police spokesman in Geneva said that there were three armed hijackers who possessed handgrenades. The French consul in Geneva, Jean Plihon, said that the hijackers boarded the Boeing at Frankfurt, where they had arrived from Larnaca, Cyprus.

The chairman of the Geneva State Council, Robert Ducret, said he had been told by the pilot that shots had been fired in the plane. The pilot had told him it would be "very risky" not to obey the hijackers, he said.

Pilot Contacts Airport

NC312101 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2057 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The hijacked Air France plane will enter Lebanese air space in a short while. The pilot is in direct contact with Beirut Airport's control tower.

A number of Lebanese officials left for the airport to follow the matter closely after the decision was made to close the airport and not to allow the aircraft to land.

Authorities Hold Emergency Meeting

NC312113 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2103 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] An emergency meeting is now being held at the office of the airport head. It is being attended by Colonel Yasin Suwayd, director of airport security, and by a number of officials from the Public Security Forces, the Civil Aviation Directorate, and the Public Works Ministry.

The latter ministry is following the contacts between the hijacked plane and Beirut Airport's control tower. The airport informed the hijackers that the plane will not be permitted to land at Beirut International Airport.

Plane Lands at Airport

NC312202 Paris AFP in English 2201 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Paris, Aug 1 (AFP) — The hijacked Air France Boeing 737 landed at Beirut Airport shortly before 22:00 GMT Tuesday night, Air France announced here.

Plane Leaves Beirut

OW312318 Hong Kong AFP in English 2204 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 1 (AFP) — A French jetliner hijacked during a flight from Frankfurt to Paris took off from Beirut Airport shortly after midnight after a 10-minute landing, a reliable source said here. The airliner with 61 people aboard left Beirut without refueling, although the landing was allowed because the hijackers said the plane was out of fuel, the source said.

A hijacker who talked by radio before the plane landed with Lebanese Public Works Minister Walid Junblatt spoke Arabic with a Lebanese accent, the source specified. Mr. Junblatt was trying to persuade the hijackers to fly to Cyprus instead of landing here.

Meanwhile in Paris, an Air France source said the hijacked Boeing 737 spent 30 minutes on the ground at the Beirut Airport before taking off for Larnaca, Cyprus, where authorities have authorized a landing for humanitarian reasons.

The plane landed at Larnaca at about 1:45 a.m. Wednesday (22:45 GMT Tuesday) after a 35-minute flight from Beirut, a reliable source here said.

Cyprus To Allow Landing

NC312139 Paris AFP in English 2137 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Belgrade, July 31 (AFP) — A hijacked French airliner was heading for Cyprus Tuesday night, said a reliable source at the Yugoslav capital's airport. After refueling at Geneva, the craft had headed for Lebanon. But the Lebanese authorities blacked out Beirut Airport and blocked the runway to prevent the pirated Air France plane from landing. The Cyprus Government would allow a landing if necessary to save the 58 passengers and six crew members, although the government's policy is to forbid hijacked planes to land, an authoritative Cypriot source told the AFP correspondent in Nicosia.

Geneva Canton Council President Robert Ducret said the pilot radioed that shots were fired aboard, that there was one death, and that it would be highly dangerous for the hostages if Geneva authorities tried to keep the plane from taking off. But in Paris later, the Air France management said the pilot had denied there was any violence or anybody killed.

The plane was commandeered after taking off from Frankfurt, West Germany, for Paris late in the afternoon. Swiss police said there were three hijackers with hand grenades. They at first indicated they wanted to fly from Geneva to Iran, but Iran refused landing permission.

Plane Heading for Tehran

OW010110 Hong Kong AFP in English 0058 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 1 (AFP) — A hijacked French airliner miraculously avoided crashing with a vehicle blocking the runway here Wednesday after midnight when the plane took off despite efforts of Lebanese authorities to keep it on the ground, airport officials said. Three hijackers aboard the Boeing 737 forced the pilot to take off after a ten-minute halt during which Lebanese Public Works Minister Walid Junblatt refused to refuel the Boeing 737 or let it leave unless all the passengers were released. The pirates threatened to blow up the control tower, an official said. "It was a miracle that it took off," he added.

The plane carrying 58 passengers and six crew members went to Larnaca, Cyprus, and then left there for an unknown destination after a 90-minute stop. The hijackers did not reveal their identity or motives. But one of them spoke Arabic with a Lebanese accent.

The airline Air France announced later the plane was heading from Cyprus to Tehran after refueling at Larnaca.

The three hijackers seized control during a flight from Frankfurt to Paris Tuesday and forced the plane to fly to Geneva for refueling before taking off again for Beirut.

The Iranian destination indicated that the hijackers could be Shia Moslem extremists from Lebanon or members of the Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA). Both groups have good relations with Iranian authorities. However Teheran announced at the start of the hijacking that landing permission would be refused in Iran.

Cypriot Communications Minsiter Khristos Mavrellis denial (?of a) report that [words indistinct] passenger had been shot to death. he said a steward succeeded in escaping from the craft at Larnaca.

Karami Supports Soviet Call for Conference

NC311215 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] On leaving Government House today, Prime Minister Rashid Karami was asked to comment on the Soviet Union's call for convening an international conference to discuss the Middle East issue.

He said: [Begin recording] We have always supported such a call for convening an international conference which would be attended by all parties concerned to discuss a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East question. [end recording]

Polyakov To Discuss Soviet Mideast Proposal

NC301436 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The Soviet Embassy in Beirut today informed the Foreign and Expatriate Affairs Ministry that Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern Countries Department, will visit Beirut on Friday, 3 August. Soviet charge d'affaires (Yuriy Sovlikov) telephoned Ambassador Fu'ad at-Turk, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, and consulted with him on Polyakov's visit to Beirut and the contacts he will hold with senior Lebanese officials.

Diplomatic sources expect the Soviet envoy's talks with Lebanese officials to center on the Soviet proposal for holding an international conference under UN supervision to solve the Middle East problem.

Al-Jumayyil Receives Robert Franjiyah, Deputy

NC311709 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil received Robert Franjiyah and Deputy 'Abdallah ar-Rasi at 1315 today. The two sides discussed current developments and the situation in the north. They also reviewed political and security topics in light of current events in Lebanon, particularly in the north.

They stressed the need to consolidate the cease-fire in the Al-Kurah district and to change the truce there into a permanent peace.

Franjiyah conveyed greetings from his father, [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah. He also conveyed to President al-Jumayyil his father's strong support for the Lebanese Government's steps to strengthen the security plan, to launch a peace march, and to open political channels with all sides. A positive atmosphere prevailed during the meeting. Talks will resume later.

Al-Jumayyil Attends Army Day Ceremony 1 Aug

NC010759 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil laid a wreath at the Army martyrs monument at the Defense Ministry at 0930 today during a ceremony marking Army Day attended by Prime Minister Karami, Governor of Jabal Lubnan Muhammad adh-Dhawq, the Internal Security Forces director, General 'Uthman 'Uthman, and Public Security Director General Jamil Ni'mah.

President al-Jumayyil inspected units of various services of the Lebanese Army. He was accompanied by Army Commander General Michel 'Awn and the chief of staff, Brigadier General Nadim al-Hakim. President al-Jumayyil left the Defense Ministry at 0950.

Army Commander Issues Army Day 'Order of Day'

NC311151 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpt] On the occasion of Army Day on 1 August, Army Commander General Michel 'Awn has issued the Order of the Day, calling upon the soldiers to search their souls in order to analyze their weaknesses and strengths so that they can move forward toward the establishment of security with firm and confident steps. General 'Awn asserted in his Order of the Day that the extraordinary conditions, which the events imposed, have ended and that the security march has begun to force its way. He pointed out that the law is supreme and that it will be applied to every negligent person.

General 'Awn appealed to the soldiers to become a tool of peace among the Lebanese and to assume their burden and sufferings. He said: Let 1 August become a starting point toward a new phase of action along the path of security and peace in Lebanon.

Birri, Junblatt Discuss Latest Developments

NC010629 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] A meeting was held last night between Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt at the residence of Muhsin Dallul, deputy leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, in the presence of former Minister Marwan Hamadah and Muhsin Ibrahim. The talks dealt with the security and political situations in view of developments.

Ministers Birri and Junblatt discussed security and political developments and agreed that the reopening of international highways should be a part of a plan that would be linked with the reopening of the Beirut-Sidon coastal road. Minister Birri is giving special attention to this point, affirming that all of his weight is behind it. It was reported that Minister Birri and Junblatt might leave for Damascus this weekend.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Rashid Karami yesterday received two cables from King Fahd and Prince Sultan reaffirming Saudi aid for Lebanon in various fields.

Sulayman Franjiyah on Security, Foreign Issues

NC010857 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon 0630 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Former President Sulayman Franjiyah held his weekly news conference yesterday at his summer palace in Ihdin and commented on the current security and political developments in Lebanon. He also spoke about the outcome of the Israeli elections, the repressive measures which the occupation forces are taking in the south, and the heroic acts which the Lebanese nationalist resistance is carrying out in the south.

Franjiyah began by saying: There is one issue today to which I would like to draw official attention, namely, the nominations that have taken and that will take place. When this government came to power, it made a lot of promises to the Lebanese. Nevertheless, and unfortunately, we have not yet seen this government match its words with deeds. The government has evidently taken action on the nominations.

Unfortunately, these nominations have been treated like a cheesecake to be divided among the ministers. If those dignified ministers had selected the best men for these nominations, we would not have made the least protest. However, the selections were made purely for the sake of their mutual satisfaction.

There is a most crucial post vacant now. The former governor of the Central Bank has ended his term, and a new governor will be appointed. In view of the importance of this post, I hope that the government will choose a person whose past is unquestionable and whose disposition will prohibit him from doing anything contrary to the public good.

The following discussion then took place between Franjiyah and the newsmen:

Question: Do you think, Mr President, that the Lebanese problem is nearing a solution in light of what is being said about the continuation of the security process?

Answer: If we subscribe to the statements being made, we would presumably hope for an imminent breakthrough. Unfortunately, if we contemplate the acts taking place in Lebanon, we find that nothing has changed so as to herald such a breakthrough. A case in point is all these trips made by officials. [sentence as heard]

Question: How do you view the implementation of the first stage of the security plan in Beirut? Do you regard it as a test for the extension of the security plan to cover all of Lebanon.

Answer: If the security plan succeeds, there is no doubt that it will expand and cover all Lebanese areas. Nonetheless, the things we have been hearing do not exactly nourish our hopes for the implementation of this plan.

Question: The government has taken moves in the Arab arena to stabilize security in cooperation with Syria and to stimulate development projects in cooperation with Saudi Arabia. How would you comment on this?

Answer: It is good to keep moving. The moves which were made this week should have been made during the government's first week in office. What I have heard through the mass media about the support furnished by brotherly Syria and Saudi Arabia is not new. Still, it is the implementation that matters. Neither Syria nor Saudi Arabia is going to take over implementation. The Lebanese are the ones to implement. Are they ready to do so? I doubt it.

Question: How would you comment on the external orientation of the government, particularly regarding the Arabs and Israel? Would you agree that the government is adopting a clear policy toward Israel now that it has closed the [liaison office in] Ad-Dubayyah?

Answer: Regardless of the state of foreign policy today, it is a thousand times — if not a million times — better than it used to be under the previous government. Under the previous government we had completely subscribed to the U.S. plans and, subsequently, to the Israeli plans. This was a bitter experience that has cost us much. Now that this experience is in the past, we have to pin our hopes on relations with the brotherly Arabs who merely wish us the best. If necessary, we can always seek the help of any of the superpowers without allying with any of them.

Question: The situation in the south is still the major issue in Lebanon. The Israeli enemy is still continuing its repressive practices and the national resistance is still reacting. In your opinion, has the government done enough for the Lebanese resistance?

Answer: Up to now, the government has unfortunately ignored the Lebanese resistance despite the fact that it was its primary duty to appreciate this resistance. At any rate, so long as the south is under enemy control it will not be restored to Lebanese sovereignty until the U.S. President's own conscience tells him to force the Zionists to pull out completely and unconditionally. Unfortunately, U.S. officials have never seemed to place conscience before electoral gains.

Question: Some say that U.S. presidents are caught up in the Zionist grip during their first term. There are hopes that President Reagan will stay in office for a second term and that this will help in finding a solution for the south.

Answer: This view is based on what late President Eisenhower did during his second term when Egypt was attacked by England, France, and Israel. The immediate reaction of Eisenhower was: Withdraw, or else. They withdrew. But, how can you get another Eisenhower?

If Reagan wins, he will still serve the interests of his party and pursue the same policy in order to keep the Jewish vote. Eisenhower, on the contrary, did not belong to any party or ally with any politician. He was following his own conscience.

Question: The Israeli elections did not give prominence to any of the parties there. Do you think that the results of these elections were triggered by the Israeli attack on Lebanon? And will they affect current efforts to pull out the occupation forces from Lebanon?

Answer: I believe the Israeli foreign policy is always the same, regardless of who is in office. Nevertheless, Shamir, the big criminal, was involved in the invasion of Lebanon, whereas Peres was not involved.

If Shamir goes back to office, the Israeli people will ask him: Of what use was this war; and he will try to avoid getting out of Lebanon with empty hands.

Meanwhile, if Peres takes over he will not have to account for the occupation of Lebanon. So, there is hope that he will pull back the occupation forces without having to justify himself before the people.

Two Beirut Crossing Points Reopen 1 Aug

NC010454 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The Sodeco and Fu'ad Shihab crossing points were reopened this morning while work is continuing to clear the roads leading to Al-'Amrusiyah, the science school, Al-Murayjah, and Ash-Shiyah. The two aforementioned crossing points were opened at 0600, and the traffic there is steadily increasing.

The Cabinet is expected today to give the military command the green light for the first stage of the plan for the mountain, which will be implemented in stages. The first stage involves the reopening of the international highways by the beginning of next week at the latest.

Islamic Jihad Group Threatens Americans

NC311341 Paris AFP in English 1335 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Beirut, July 31 (AFP) — A self-styled spokesman for "Islamic Jihad" said today that the organisation "will not shrink from the operation of purifying Lebanese territory of the American presence."

In a telephone call to a foreign news agency, the spokesman said: "We have promised the world that we will not leave an American alive in Lebanon. That is why we are warning that we shall not wait long before driving out the Americans, whether in West Beirut or East Beirut."

The caller also claimed responsibility on behalf of Islamic Jihad for the rocketing two weeks ago of the Soviet Embassy in Beirut. The attack, he said, was "a warning to that country, which has begun interferring in Lebanon's internal affairs."

Amal, Hezbollah Clash in Southern Beirut

NC311635 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Gunmen of the Amal Movement and of the Hezbollah Party clashed in Burj al-Barajinah in southern Beirut at 1800. Both sides suffered casualties.

Earlier, a Hezbollah group posted leaflets on walls in the area.

Mufti's Office Contacts PSP, Al-Murabitun

NC311723 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The mufti's office delegation, consisting of Shaykh Khalil al-Mays and Shaykh Khaldun 'Uraymays, met today with Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt and discussed with him the situation in Saqiyat al-Janzir. Minister Junblatt responded favorably to the efforts being made by the delegation.

The delegation then visited the command of the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun for the same purpose. The Al-Murabitun command has responded positively to the delegation's endeavors. It has been decided to revive the work of the quadripartite security committee, which is made up of the PSP, Amal Movement, Al-Murabitun, and the mufti's office.

Al-Murabitun, PSP Agree to Security Measures

NC010647 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] A security meeting was held in the mufti's office attended by representatives of the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun and the Progressive Socialist Party, an office of the Internal Security Forces, an Army officer, and representatives of the mufti's office. The conferees agreed to put an end to the clashes which took place recently and to hand over the persons wanted by the two sides to the Internal Security Forces at the Al-Hilu barracks at noon today. It was also agreed to eliminate all armed manifestations between the two sides.

VOAL Reports Resistance Operations in South

NC311336 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] More than five Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded north of Tyre today in an attack by Lebanese national resistance fighters. Rockets and machine guns were used in the attack. Press correspondents confirmed that the Zionist forces sustained grave losses, adding that several explosions were heard.

In similar operations, resistance fighters also attacked three Zionist enemy patrols. The first operation was carried out on the Al-Ghaziyah road; the second was carried out on the Sayniq bridge; and the third on the Al-'Aqbiyah road. Rockets and machine guns were used in all three operations. The Zionist occupation forces cordoned off the areas with troops and armored personnel carriers. Helicopters were seen evacuating the casualties, which have not yet been determined.

The resistance fighters attacked a Zionist position near As-Sarafand with rockets and machine guns at 0100. They also detonated an explosive device south of Tyre while a Zionist patrol was passing by. No information is available yet on the Zionist casualties in the last two operations due to the cordon imposed on the area.

Report on Al-Asad's Interview With LE MONDE

JN011159 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad has granted an important, comprehensive interview to Andre Fontaine, chief editor of the French newspaper *LE MONDE*, in which he said that the French presence in Lebanon did not represent a neutral position between the Arabs and Israel, that France did not come to Lebanon alone but within the NATO framework, and that it shelled the Syrian forces in Lebanon.

On the Syrian-Palestinian relations, leader Al-Asad said: The Palestinian revolution is based in Syria. It springs from Syria. It will always remain united in Syria. As for the resistance which is far away from Palestine, it is something else. It can be given any other name except resistance. As a state which has an Arab policy, we have a Palestinian policy in which we differ from Yasir 'Arafat. We do not impose any definite formulas on the Palestinian arena.

We say: These are their affairs. Naturally, in this case we offer assistance to those whom we consider to be representing the Palestinian struggle.

Answering a question on the possibility of finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli struggle in the near future, the president affirmed that any solution to the Arab-Israeli struggle must take into account the Palestinian problem as its essential part. We have reiterated that we want a just peace in this region. We asserted that this just peace must be based on the UN resolutions.

Answering a question on a synchronized Israeli-Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, the president said: We reject any connection between our presence in Lebanon as brotherly Arab forces that entered Lebanon at Lebanon's official and nonofficial request, and the presence of the Israeli forces of invasion, which came to oppress the Lebanese people and the Palestinians in Lebanon and to commit aggression against an independent, sovereign, and Arab country that is a member of the United Nations and the Arab League.

The president said that the Syrian and Lebanese people are one people who cannot be separated from the Arab body. There were no borders separating the two fraternal countries and they have the same Arab affiliation.

Answering a question on Lebanon's trend toward normalization, the president said: Our Lebanese brothers are aware of our determination to help Lebanon. We believe that through our cooperation with our Lebanese brothers, we have so far been able to realize good, positive steps.

In his interview, the president asserted that the USSR works for peace whereas the United States speaks about peace but does not work for it. The president added: Our main enemy is the United States and not Israel. However, the fact of the matter is that the United States is the one which implements the Israeli decisions.

President al-Asad Delivers Army Day Message

JN311550 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus, 31 Jul (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad has addressed a message to the Army and Armed Forces on the 39th anniversary of the Syrian Arab Army. The message was published in the Army magazines *JAYSH ASH-SHA'B* and *AL-JUNDI AL-'ARABI*. The following is text of the message:

Brothers and sons in the valiant Armed Forces, brave officers, NCO's, and men:

I address this message of greeting to you on this glorious day, while my heart is filled with great pride. This pride has grown year after year, as I see the structure that we are building together rising higher and higher. I feel that our Syrian Arab Army has made rapid and continuous progress.

I am very confident that all of our people share this pride with me, sense this progress, and are as proud of you as I am. You sons of our great people, who have always held our heads high because of your splendid performance in all your national and pan-Arab tasks, have proven to everyone that you are the true grandsons of the great heroes of our nation who have written immortal pages in the history of our Arab nation with their heroism, bravery, and dignity. They set for the world the highestexamples of morality and chivalry enjoyed by the Arab fighter fighting the enemy.

The leadership, which is very proud of you, is providing you with all of your needs so that you can continue on the path of dignity and pride. Our people, to whom you belong, have spared no sacrifice to enable you to continue on this path.

I am pleased today, while we are celebrating the 39th anniversary of the Syrian Arab Army, to address my cordial greetings to everyone of you — officers, NCO's, and men — and to extend the hand of greeting and congratulations to everyone of you, wherever you may be in the Armed Forces. I firmly believe that all of you — individuals and formations — are determined to continue on the path of dignity and heroism, guided by the heritage of our immortal nation and the principles of our great party — the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party under whose ideology you were raised. You are a precious treasure for the homeland and nation, and you will continue to be the forward striking force on which all Arabs pin their hopes for safeguarding the honor of the nation, crushing enemies and aggressors, and checking the onslaught of Zionist and imperialist expansion and hegemony.

Brave officers, NCO's, and soldiers:

We in Syria have defined our position, the correct position. We have also fixed our objectives and proceeded to them with relentless willpower and unflinching determination. We are thus on the forefront of the struggle to liberate occupied Arab territory and to regain usurped Arab rights. Indeed, we are on the forefront of defending Arab honor and dignity.

If some people, misguided and blinded by motives having nothing to do with national and pan-Arab objectives, have pursued a wrong course by turning away from the real enemy they are supposed to fight and resist and by wasting a major and important part of the Arab resources in a war which does not serve any Arab interest, and if yet others have frozen a major part of these resources by pursuing false objectives, we in Syria have had to double our efforts, give abundantly, and make sacrifices to cover the loopholes created by those people in the Arab ranks.

Achieving a strategic balance with the Zionist enemy is a pan-Arab duty which we hoped would be undertaken collectively. But when some of our Arab brothers faced us with hesitation, defeatism, and deviation from the pan-Arab line, we took it upon ourselves to undertake this duty regardless of the sacrifices. Achieving the strategic balance is an urgent necessity for liberating occupied Arab territories, regaining usurped Arab rights, ending aggression, and achieving just peace. We are saying that it is an urgent necessity in view of increasing strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, which has recently assumed new and serious dimensions approaching the point of an alliance, and also in view of the fact that the two political parties in the United States are vying with one another to support Israel's falsehood and aggression.

We hope that our misguided brothers will again realize that what was taken by force cannot be retrieved either by appeasing those who were behind the aggression against us or by resorting to those who are firmly committed to backing Israel and guaranteeing its military superiority over all of the Arabs.

Brave brothers and sons of the Armed Forces:

Your heroic stand against the Zionist invasion in fraternal Lebanon has won the praise and appreciation of every devout son of the Arab nation. Your long struggle in fraternal Lebanon to help that Arab country achieve full recovery and normal life and regain its role in the Arab world was a practical application of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's principles as well as an implementation of the willpower of our people, who firmly believe in their duty to their Arab brothers and who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of this duty.

Your heroism has checked the Zionist invasion, and your brave stand has spared Lebanon the destruction planned by the invaders. You toppled the 17 May agreement of submission and reversed the situation. Lebanon is now witnessing the beginning of the salvation process — the process of national reconciliation and liberation from Zionist occupation. This process is continuing successfully. Through our cooperation with our brothers in Lebanon, we will ensure that stability returns to that fraternal country.

Brothers and sons of our valiant Armed Forces:

The first people that we remember on such an occasion are our righteous martyrs, for whom no world of praise or glorification is sufficient. For they made the most precious sacrifices. They sacrificed their lives that we may live as free and respectable people. They willingly sought martyrdom to achieve glory for the sons of their homeland and nation. Their blood is the fuel that keeps the torch of freedom alight so that we can continue on the path of dignity and honor. We again pledge to them that we will follow their example and remain loyal to the objectives for which they fell. We will also give their families all the care they deserve. Glory and immortality to our great martyrs. Let their memory prompt us to double our efforts and pursue the course of reconstruction and liberation.

[Signed] Hafiz al-Asad, president of the republic and commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces

Damascus, 1 August 1984

ATH-THAWRAH on Syrian-Palestinian Relations

JN011035 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Damascus, 1 Aug (SANA) — The newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH* has said that recent events in the Palestinian revolution have shown that Syria is the only Arab side concerned with Palestine and its cause and the only side ready to sacrifice for Palestine without wanting anything in return.

In its lead article today, under the headline "Syria and the Palestinian Cause," *ATH-THAWRAH* said: Events have proven that Syria is not only the key to war and peace in the region, but also the key to Palestine and its cause. Any path toward liberating Palestine that does not begin in Damascus is a slippery, tortuous path that leads only to hardships and disintegration. Any struggle isolated from Syria will not yield any useful results; and moving away from the Syria position means getting closer to the U.S. and Israeli position.

The paper said that Syria, which silently paid the price of its commitment to Palestine, wants the Palestinian cause to remain alive in the Arab nation's conscience. Syria wants the Palestinian revolution to remain a force of struggle against Zionism and the United States. It does not want the revolution to be dragged toward precipices and hazardous side issues that would exhaust its resources and land it in the traps which Israel and the United States set for it in many regions and under various slogans.

ATH-THAWRAH pointed out that Syria, which considers the Palestinian revolution to be an ally and backer, and wants it to remain healthy and strong, established its relations with this revolution on the basis of dealing with principles rather than individuals because the principle is permanent but the individual is not and may err. Syria approved all the moves which the Palestinians unanimously approved out of their own free will. Syria will not endeavor to impose its trusteeship on this revolution. Had Syria wanted this, it would have accomplished it without difficulty. Had Syria wanted this, it would not have supported the Palestinian institutions and protected their freedom and indpendence.

The paper said that Syria adopted the same stand not only toward the Palestinian deviationists, but also toward all the Arab deviationists such as As-Sadat, Saddam, and others who attempted to forsake the pan-Arab cause under the slogans of independent decisionmaking and regional sovereignty. The paper added: For history's sake, we would like to say that all those who called for independent decisionmaking on pan-Arab issues did this only to hide their agentry, connivance, and capitulation to the United States and Israel.

ATH-THAWRAH said: What Syria wants is a commitment to the resolutions passed by the Palestinian institutions and a renunciation of the policy of capitulation and cheap haggling, which has been extremely detrimental to the Palestinian people's cause and their fighting tool.

ATH-THAWRAH said in conclusion: As always, Syria will not spare anything for Palestine's sake. It will continue to exert all its efforts until the Palestinian Arab people obtain their full legitimate rights. Syria will oppose any deviation, connivance, or defeatism in the struggle, and fight against all those who exploit the Palestinian cause to hide their faults and shortcomings. Events have proven that Syria is capable of doing what it wants.

Ministers Meet With Greek Delegation

JN311528 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus, 31 Jul (SANA) — 'Ammash Juday', minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, received here today Constantinos Vaitsos, Greek alternate minister of national economy, who is currently visiting Syria at the head of an economic delegation. During the meeting, the Syrian minister expressed hope that the visit will achieve positive results in strengthening and developing cooperation between the two friendly countries. The Greek minister emphasized his country's concern over strengthening and developing cooperation between their two friendly countries, and his country's desire to increase trade exchange with Sryia. This is in addition to developing economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, and establishing joint Syrian-Greek companies to implement numerous projects of concern to both countries.

In another development, Minister of Health Dr Ghasub ar-Rifa'i received here today the Greek delegation led by Vaitsos. During this meeting, they reviewed the relations of health cooperation between the two friendly countries and the means of strengthening them. They expressed the hope of reaching a formula for health cooperation between the two countries that will serve the peoples of the two friendly countries.

Al-Asad Receives AS-SAFFIR Chief Editor

JN311323 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus — At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Talal Salman, chief editor of the Lebanese newspaper *AS-SAFIR*.

JERUSALEM POST Reports Members of 11th Knesset

TA010902 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Aug 84 p 3

["Members of the Eleventh Knesset" — *THE JERUSALEM POST* headline]

[Text] The following are the parties' representatives in the 11th Knesset:

Alignment: Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Navon, Yitzhaq Rabin, Hayim Bar-Lev, Abba Eban, Victor Shem-Tov, Yisra'el Qeysar, Gad Ya'aqobi, Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino, Eli'ezer Granot, Mordekhay Gur, Moshe Shahal, Refa'el Edri, Shlomo Hilel, Ora Namir, Eliyahu Speiser, 'Uzi Bar'am, Arye Nehamkin, Ya'ir Tzaban, Avraham Katz-'Oz, Ya'aqov Tzur, Yitzhaq Peretz, Menahem Hakohen, Nava Arad, Yosef Sarid, Amira Sartani, Jacques Amir, Mikha'el Harish, Shevah Weiss, Amnon Lynn, 'Adi'el Amoray, David Liba'i, Muhammad Watad, Dov Ben-Me'ir, Hayim Ramon, Efrayim Shalom, Nahman Raz, 'Edna Solodar, Yitzhaq Artzi, Haya Grossman, Aharon Har'el, 'Abd al-Wahid ad-Durushi, Simha Dinitz, Aharon Nahmias.

Likud: Yitzhaq Shamir, David Levi, Yitzhaq Moda'i, Moshe Arens, Ari'el Sharon, Moshe Nisim, Yig'al Kohen-Orgad, Yoram Aridor, Avraham Sharir, Eli'ezer Shostak, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, Moshe Qatzav, Pesah Grupper, David Magen, Roni Milo, Gid'on Pat, Me'ir Shitrit, Dov Shilanski, Yitzhaq Zeiger, Mikha'el Deqel, Mikha'el Reiser, Gid'on Gadot, Ari'el Weinstein, Ehud Olmert, Hayim Corfu, Sara Doron, Miryam Glazer-Ta'asa, Amal Nasir ad-Din, Pinhas Goldstein, Me'ir Kohen-Avidov, Hayim Kaufman, Yehoshu'a Matza, Dan Tikhon, Eli 'Ovadia, Dan Meridor, Uri'el Lynn, 'Uzi Landau, Mikha'el Eytan, Beni Shalita, Yig'al Kohen, Eli'ezer Kulas.

Tehiya, Tzomet: Yuval Ne'eman, Refa'el Eytan, Ge'ula Kohen, Eli'ezer Waldman, Gershon Shafat.

National Religious Party: Yosef Burg, Zvulun Hammer, Avner Sciaky, David Danino.

Sephardi Torah Guardians (SHAS): Yitzhaq Peretz, Refa'el Pinhasi, Ya'aqov Yosef, Shim'on Shlomo.

Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (HADASH): Me'ir Wilner, Tawfiq Tubi, Charlie Biton, Tawfiq Zayyad.

Shinuy: Amnon Rubinstein, Mordekhay Virshubski, Zayday 'Atshah.

Citizens' Rights Movement: Shulamit Aloni, Mordekhay Bar-On, Ran Kohen.

Yahad: 'Ezer Weizman, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, Shlomo 'Amar.

Morasha: Hayim Druckman, Avraham Verdiger.

Agudat Yisra'el: Avraham Shapira, Menahem Porush.

Progressive List for Peace: Muhammad Mi'ari, Matityahu Peled.

TAMI: Aharon Abu-Hatzira.

Ometz: Yiga'el Hurvitz.

KAKH: Me'ir Kahana.

Final Knesset Election Results Announced

TA311830 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1750 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, 31 Jul (ITIM) — Of the 2,654,613 Israeli citizens entitled to vote for the 11th Knesset, 2,091,402 voted. Of these votes, 18,081 were disqualified. Of the 26 lists that competed, 11 did not win any seats. These lists received votes totalling 58,978 but individually they did not win the minimum required for election to the Knesset.

The Alignment: 724,074 votes, 44 seats; National Religious Party: 73,530 votes, 4 seats; Agudat Yisra'el: 36,079 votes, 2 seats; Shinuy: 54,747 votes, 3 seats; RAKAH: 69,815 votes, 4 seats; Yahad:46,302 votes, 3 seats; Ometz: 23,845 votes, 1 seat; KAKH: 25,907 votes, 1 seat; Likud: 661,302 votes, 41 seats; TAMI: 31,103 votes, 1 seat; Morasha: 33,287 votes, 2 seats; Progressive List for Peace: 38,012 votes, 2 seats; Citizens Rights Movement: 49,698 votes, 3 seats; Sephardi Torah Guardians (SHAS): 63,605 votes, 4 seats; and Tehiya-TZOMET 83,037 votes, 5 seats.

[In a 31 July Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE report in English which provides identical figures to the above, Weizman's Yahad is credited with 46,302 votes and three seats.]

Alignment's Bar-Lev Discusses Herzog Meeting

TA010739 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0707 GMT 1 Aug 84

[News conference with Labor Party Secretary General Knesset Member Hayim Bar-Lev following meeting with President Hayim Herzog, outside the presidential residence in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] [Bar-Lev] Israeli presidents have always entrusted the representative of the largest faction with the task of forming the government. There has been only one case when this task was entrusted to the representative of a smaller faction. This took place about 10 months ago, not in the wake of general elections but after Menahem Begin submitted his resignation and Likud members could tell the president that 64 Knesset members supported Yitzhaq Shamir. That is to say, this was the only instance when this task was not entrusted to the representative of the largest faction. In all other cases, Israeli presidents have always entrusted this task to the representative of the largest faction. We recommend to the president that he once again keep with this tradition. The next thing we told the president of the state is that if this task is entrusted to Shim'on Peres, he would appeal to most Knesset factions in a bid to set up the widest possible government, a government of national unity, which would include the Likud faction. If this task is indeed entrusted to Shim'on Peres, I have no doubt that he will succeed.

[Indistinct question by unidentified correspondent]

[Bar-Lev] This question was posed to us by the president. We said this looked like a very hypothetical situation because it is clear that the Likud does not have 61 Knesset members who recommend that this task be entrusted to Shamir. It is also clear that the Alignment received over 90,000 more votes than the Likud.

Therefore, this is a rather theoretical question, but our answer is that if this theoretical case does occur — although we do not think so — our reply will be positive. It is understood that if the president entrusts this mission to a Knesset member, and if the latter happens to come from our midst, it is clear that we will heed his appeal.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Mr Bar-Lev, if a national unity government is so important to you — given Mr Peres' statements yesterday — why should you make this conditional on getting a post for Mr Peres?

[Bar-Lev] Because first of all, as I have just said, we are not setting any conditions. What we are saying is that the candidate of the largest faction should be the one entrusted with this task. However, as I said in reply to the previous question, if the president entrusts this mission to somebody else, we will comply with his wish and we will enter negotiations.

[Question by unidentified correspondent] Are the chances good, and is there an intention that this should succeed?

[Bar-Lev] We are talking about intentions, and our intentions are geniune. The condition the country is in at present calls for the widest possible government, and if we can agree on acceptable policy guidelines with the Likud — well, this is our goal and we will do our best for this to come about.

Further Comment

TA010808 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] A short time ago, the president concluded his consultations with the Alignment representatives. Later, Hayim Bar-Lev said that the Alignment is prepared in principle to join a Likud-led government. He noted, however, that this was merely hypothetical at this stage and the issue must be negotiated.

Bar-Lev said that he and his colleagues emphasized to the president that Shim'on Peres should be entrusted with the task of forming the government, because the Alignment is the largest faction. They promised that if this task is entrusted to Peres, they would work on forming the widest possible government, which would also include the Likud.

Alignment-Likud Unity Meeting Adjourned

TA011129 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The meeting between the Alignment and Likud representatives in Jerusalem over the establishment of a national unity government has been adjourned for a while.

The Likud is represented by Prime Minister Shamir, and Ministers Levi, Arens, Sharon, Moda'i, and Shostak. The Alignment is represented by Labor Party members Peres, Navon, Rabin, Bar-Lev, and Shahal.

AL-QUDS on Results of Knesset Elections

JN311520 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 Jul 84 p 1

[Editorial: "What Have the Israelis Chosen?"]

[Text] The results of the Israeli elections have confirmed a number of extant facts. However, the results of the balloting brought these facts to the surface. Observers discovered that the Israelis have split into two camps, and that the power of the right-wing and religious factions and parties has been reinforced.

In light of the stalemate which prevails and the possibilities of forming an Israeli Government, be it a coalition government under either the Alignment or the Likud, the Israeli Government will be weakened by the blackmail of the small parties, especially the right-wing and the religious party. Therefore, this government will have limited opportunities for maneuvering.

Even if the two major parties form a national unity government, the common ground for this government will be restricted. This means that the two parties will not agree on solving the major issues, especially the settlements and the future of the occupied Arab territories.

Hence, those who expected that the results of the Israeli elections would break the stalemate in the region's crisis will discover that these results only mean the continuation of the current situation and of the dangers threatening the Palestinian people's future and rights.

The Israelis have expressed their opinion. By choosing their representatives to the parliament, they have asserted that they are not interested in reaching a just solution. In fact, those who support the idea of greater Israel received more votes than the other camp — which does not want to relinquish all of the occupied territories. This is the significance of the Israeli elections. Will the Arabs learn the lesson, or will they wait for the next elections, as they are used to doing?

AL-FAJR on Significance of Arab Vote in Elections

JN311504 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 25 Jul 84 p 1

[Editorial: The Arab Masses in Israel Are an Effective Force]

[Text] The Arab masses in Israel managed to exercise an obvious influence during the 11th Israeli Knesset general elections the day before yesterday. The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality preserved its strength by gaining four Knesset seats, and the Progressive List for Peace succeeded in reaching the Knesset by winning two seats. Thus, our predictions were correct. The Arab votes were not wasted. In fact, two more seats were won during the current elections, when the Progressive List for Peace enabled Muhammad Mi'ari and Matitiahu Peled to occupy two Knesset seats. This is in addition to the seats occupied by the front's leaders, Me'ir Wilner, Tawfiq Tubi, Shalom Biton, and Tawfiq Zayyad.

While we congratulate both sides, the Front and the List, on this victory, we hope that they will forgo the differences that took place during the elections and focus their attention on joint coordination — for the sake of the Arab masses, and for protecting their rights and raising their voices high in all circles. The success of the Front and the List in winning six seats has proved the Arab masses' ability to protect themselves against the Zionist parties that are temporarily courting these masses in order to usurp their votes. It is natural for these masses to use their votes properly so that no Arab vote will be lost or wasted. We hope that the coming days will stress the extreme importance of coordination between the Front and the List, as long as their programs and objectives are similar, especially those concerning the Palestine question, the Palestinian people's rights, and the just and comprehensive peace in the region. Regardless of whether the Alignment or the Likud forms the next Israeli Government, there will be no change in the reality in the region, at least in the foreseeable future.

Police To Take Firm Action Against Kahana

TA311257 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Police and the State Attorney's Office will take firm action against KAKH members in order to prevent a violation of the law and public order, and will bring those suspected of offenses to trial. This was concluded at a meeting between the attorney general and police officials. Professor Zamir and police officials conferred for about 3 hours today in order to discuss possible measures against Me'ir Kahana and his followers. As for the march by Kahana's followers in East Jerusalem after the elections, it has been learned that this is still being investigated.

Editorial Discusses Soviet Peace Initiative

TA011103 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Aug 84 p 2

[Editorial: "An Old Tune"]

[Text] The "new Soviet initiative" for a solution to the conflict in our area is not new at all. Their demand to resolve the conflict through an international conference, in which the Soviet Union and the PLO participate, has existed since the world was created...and nothing has changed to prompt us to accept a proposal we have rejected in the past. We all want a dialogue with the Soviet Union, but not on the basis of a proposal which is destructive for us. Even if the Soviet Union is inclined in this direction, it has to reconsider the issue and first resume relations with us. It is impossible to boycott us and at the same time engage in talks.

IDF Closes Tyre Port; New Security Steps Seen

TA311659 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpt] The IDF has closed the Port of Tyre until new security measures are implemented. Commercial ships, however, are being allowed to continue to put into port and unload their cargo. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the latest wave of terrorist activity in Lebanon has been concentrated around Tyre.

IDF Kills Two 'Terrorists' in Lebanon Clash

TA010539 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0535 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Two terrorists were killed this morning in a clash with an IDF unit south of Sidon. Our forces did not sustain any casualties. The IDF spokesman reports that an IDF patrol driving south of Sidon this morning spotted two terrorists who were trying to plant an explosive device on the side of the road. The patrol opened fire and the explosive device was detonated by the IDF soldiers. The terrorists had weapons and sabotage material.

IDF Officer On Jordanian Army Modernization

TA011117 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Aug 84 p 3

[Sha'ya Segal report]

[Text] The Jordanian Army's build-up is like that of an army preparing for war. Despite the fact that Husayn apparently does not intend to wage a war, there is no knowing what another Jordanian ruler may decide in the future, and the IDF must also be ready for a possible war on that front.

This was said yesterday by a senior IDF officer in a meeting with 47 senior foreign journalists in Israel representing all the important television networks and central news agencies in the world who were the guests of the IDF Central Command. They were briefed by a senior officer, and they also toured the Jordan River bridges and positions in the Jordan Rift Valley.

The senior officer particularly stressed the qualitative improvement of the Jordanian Army and emphasized that this Army receives excellent advice both from Western and Eastern countries. He said that the Jordanian Ground and Air Forces have been considerably modernized, especially in the field of air defense.

The officer described relations between Jordan and Israel as "good." He stressed that in 1983 the number of people from Arab countries arriving in Israel across the Jordan River bridges amounted to 50,000, and that this number is expected to increase this year. He added that Jordan is making considerable efforts to foil sabotage attempts against Israel from its border. Some of the attempts succeeded "because the Jordanian Army does not always succeed in stopping the terrorists." Over the last 6 months there was only one successful terrorist attempt to infiltrate Israel in the Jordan Rift valley. The squad was caught by IDF forces.

Foreign Reserves Drop, Money Supply Rises

TA011118 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] Israel's foreign reserves have dropped by $351 million. This is the steepest monthly drop in many years. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik points out that the actual drop was even steeper, and that the government took short-term loans overseas in order to cover some of it. Israel's foreign reserves now stand at $2.6 billion, far below the so-called red line.

Government printing also reached an all-time record in July and amounted to some $95 billion in Israeli shekels. Part of this sum was covered by funds invested in dollar-linked savings programs which were deposited in the state's treasury.

3-Month Freeze Set on Government Contracts, Hiring

TA010925 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0856 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] A short time ago the Ministerial Committee on Economic Affairs decided to impose a 3-month freeze on government contracts and hiring, as of today.

A total freeze has been imposed on hiring. 75 percent of government contracts will be frozen, 22.5 percent will be at the discretion of the ministries, and 2.5 percent will be transferred to an extraordinary committee composed of Ministers Kohen-Orgad, Levi, and Moda'i.

New Daily Newspaper in Territories Published

TA011005 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Aug 84 p 4

[Pinhas 'Inbari report]

[Text] As of today, a new daily newspaper called *AL-MITHAQ*, is appearing in the territories. It reflects the line of those who want reforms in Fatah. So far the newspaper has appeared twice weekly, but from now on it will appear every day.

New Postal Service in Mount Hebron Area

TA011020 Tel Aviv HATZOFE In Hebrew 1 Aug 84 p 6

[Excerpt] The Communications Ministry's postal service has recently opened a new motorized postal service line in the Hebron Mountain area. This line gives full postal service to 12 Jewish settlements there. The postal service to settlements in Judaea and Samaria has recently been modernized and improved. Post offices have been opened in Giv'at Ze'ev and Qarne Shomron, and similar offices will be opened in Bet El "A" and Efrat.

ALGERIA

Energy Ministry Denies OPEC Withdrawal Rumors

LD311916 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The Ministry of Energy and Petrochemical Industries has issued a press communique strongly denying allegations by certain Western media stating that Algeria is planning to leave OPEC. The ministry's press communique exposes the press campaign, carried out since the latest OPEC meeting held in Vienna at the beginning of July, which exaggerates the oil market situation reports and speaks of an OPEC breakup. This fanciful campaign attempts to put forward the idea that Iran, Nigeria and Algeria intend to withdraw from OPEC, an allegation moreover denied by these countries, the communique adds.

This unfounded rumor, the Ministry of Energy and Petrochemical Industries states, is aimed at putting pressure on OPEC or harming the cohesion of the organization [word indistinct] on the occasion of the recent ordinary session. Such poisonous campaigns ascribed to the oil-producing countries, particularly those of OPEC, act contrary to their interests and are aimed at sowing discord and helping the maneuvers of certain operators in the oil market, concludes the communique of the Ministry of Energy and Petrochemical Industries.

New Ambassadors Appointed to Romania, Argentina

PM311555 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 25 Jul 84 p 3

[APS report: "New Algerian Ambassadors to Romania and Argentina"]

[Text] Algiers — The Romanian Government gave its assent 30 June 1984 to Abdenour Bekka's appointment as the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Socialist Republic of Romania.

In addition, the Argentine Government gave its assent 3 July 1984 to Djelloul Khatib's appointment as the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Argentine Republic.

LIBYA

Reportage on Visit of Italian Foreign Minister

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Andreotti

LD311329 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received today Italian Foreign Minister Mr Guilio Andreotti, who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah to attend the work of the fifth session of the Libyan Arab-Italian Joint Committee for Cooperation. JANA has learned that during this meeting they discussed the issue of compensating the Libyan Arab people for damages and losses suffered as a result of the Italian occupation of Libya. They also discussed of the return of monuments stolen from Libya during the period of Italian occupation. They also discussed the expansion and devvelopment of cooperation and relations between the Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Italy in politics, economics and culture.

Trade Agreements Signed

LD010152 Rome International Service in Italian 1730 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] During the second day of his visit to Libya, Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti met with chief of state Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The meeting was held in Banghazi where the colonel watched a series of ground, air, and sea maneuvers by the Libyan Armed Forces. He was accompanied by his Libyan colleague, At-Turayki.

Meanwhile, the Italian Economic Commission concluded a number of trade agreements which should provide Italy with contracts worth about 2.5 billion lire.

In the evening, Andreotti returns to Tripoli where he will take part in the signing of an agreement under which an Italian consortium will supply Libya with two oil rigs for the exploitation of oil deposits in the sea off Tripoli.

Cooperation Committee Meets

LD311541 Tripoli JANA in English 1437 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Tripoli, Dhulqida 3, July 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The fifth session of the Libyan-Italian Committee of Economic and Social Cooperation began yesterday at the Foreign Liaison People's Bureau in Tripoli to study ways and means [of] strengthening the existing relations of cooperation between Jamahiriyah and Italy in all fields. Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, secretary of the General People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau gave an opening address welcoming the Italian foreign minister, Giulio Andreotti and the members of the delegation accompanying him expressing his belief that positive results would be achieved in the relations of cooperation between Jamahiriyah and Italy. Dr at-Turayki asserted that "we have the same willingness to work together to promote our relations of mutual cooperation in all fields on the basis of mutual benefits of the two friendly countries".

He further made clear that "the results achieved by the committee for the past years confirm the mutual willingness for mutual economic and social cooperation between the two friendly countries and work for the expansion and consolidation of these relations". Dr. at-Turayki pointed out that "the relations between the two countries are not new but they extend to the past centuries. In fact, they are normal relations dedicated to the service of the mutual interest. We are, therefore, bound to develop and expand them, through the common history of two countries, although part of that is not a happy one. We were subjected to the fascist invasion in as much as the Italian people was subjected to the fascist rule. Thus, we suffered together from the fascist rule. However, following the liberation of Libya, thanks to the Great 1st September Revolution, and the liberation of Italy from the fascist rule we are dealing with each other within the framework of mutual interest, understanding and mutual respect away from domination and colonailism".

He said that, "Cooperation between Jamahiriyah and Italy do not benefit our two peoples only but all the peoples of the Mediterranean". Dr at-Turayki pointed out that the Libyan-Italian cooperation covered many scopes including economic, cultural and political fields and that Jamahiriyah was ready to develop and promote, to the maximum, this cooperation saying that the visit of Mr Giulio Andreotti would give a further impetus to develop and consolidate cooperation and achieve [word indistinct] results.

Concluding his address, Dr at-Turayki expressed his pleasure and appreciation to the outstanding efforts made by Mr Andreotti for the development of relations between the two friendly countries in accordance with the common goals and for the benefit of the peoples of Libya and Italy.

On the other hand, Mr Giulio Andreotti made a speech in which he reaffirmed Italy's utter willingness to strengthen its relations with Jamahiriyah saying that "we in Italy, are not working merely for the mutual benefit of the two countries but to create cooperation with all the peoples of the Mediterranean region".

He further asserted that "the Italian Government is keen on extending bridges of cooperation with Jamahiriyah, within the next coming months, while presiding [over] the Common Market, and to work for setting up strong bridges of cooperation between Jamahiriyah and the EEC for the benefit of Libya and countries of the European community. Mr Giulio Andreotti emphasized the significance of developing relations beyond those of economic and commercial nature to political fields as well as cultural and social relations. The Italian foreign minister pointed out that "Italy desire to develop its relations with Jamahiriyah was mainly motivated by the political weight enjoyed by Jamahiriyah".

He added that "Italy gives great importance to the work of this joint committee as we look at the Italian-Libyan relations with great interest, at present and future, and we have before us ripe opportunities to develop these relations". The Italian foreign minister went on to say that "the Italian [word indistinct] has been preparing for this session with great interest to make the works of the committee a success through opening new future perspectives for relations of cooperation between us. Mr Giulio Andreotti reaffirmed that, through the talks the Italian delegation hold in Jamahiriyah we will try to arrange for further Arab-European meetings during the coming year which will represent a significant phase in the relations of Europe with the Arab nation".

Furthermore, the Italian foreign minister expressed Italy's support to the unity of the Arab nation which had contributed in building old and contemporary civilisations saying that "Europe is seeking to set up new and strong ties between Europe and the Arab nation on the basis of equality and mutual interest of peoples to attain peace and security".

ANSA Reports on Meetings

AU311935 Rome ANSA in English 1910 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] (ANSA) Tripoli, July 31 — Italy and Libya today signed a joint document to revitalize economic cooperation between the two countries while Italy was awarded public works contracts worth 1.2 billion dollars. The document wound up the fifth session of the Joint Italo-Libyan Commission chaired here by Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and his Libyan counterpart 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki.

Sources in the Italian delegation said the results of the commission session were very positive. The two countries also reached agreement on recovery of Italy's large credits to Libya, an estimated 600 million dollars. It was learned here that the two sides agreed that the payments will be made in the form of oil supplies to the Italian state — run natural fuels corporation ENI which will in turn pay the Italian firms which have extended credits to Libya.

Andreotti, who arrived in Tripoli yesterday, had talks with At-Turayki and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that ranged on a broad spectrum of international issues as well as bilateral problems. Differences of opinion remained between the two delegations over the two countries' respective relations with the United States. Contrasts also emerged over Libya's demand for reparations for the Italian colonial domination of Libya between 1940 and 1945.

The two foreign ministers also signed a protocol that should pave the way to four accords — consular convention, social assistance, recruitment of Italian workers and judicial cooperation — that would increase safeguards for the estimated 20 thousand Italians working in Libya. (Several Italians have not been allowed to leave Libya when their employers failed to complete contracts).

Another framework accord is being drafted for the promotion of the Italian language and culture in Libya and greater cooperation between universities in the two countries. Italy and Libya also signed an agreement by which the Bele Li-Micoperi consortium will supply the North African state with two oil platforms to exploit a massive oil field found off the Libyan coast near Tripoli. The field, discovered by AGIP, the petroleum subsidiary of Italy's public sector fuels group ENI, is billed as the largest in the Mediterranean. The contract signed today is worth 235 million dollars. Production should begin in 1987 and is estimated at 150 thousand barrels a day and the field will be exploited jointly by AGIP and the Libyan Petroleum Company.

Andreotti Impressions of Talks

AU311947 Rome ANSA in English 1937 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] (ANSA) Tripoli, July 31 — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti's two-day visit to Tripoli, where he had talks with Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and other officials, was "useful" in the minister's opinion. The Libyan leader appeared "changed" to Andreotti, who mused that both are "seven years older", a reference to the first time they met in Tripoli in 1977, and that the passage of time induces greater moderation and "awareness of the changes that must teach us something".

Al-Qadhdhafi received Andreotti today in his residence in Benghazi. Andreotti said it was the most in depth talk of the three he has had with Al-Qadhdhafi. Al-Qadhdhafi stressed his desire for reunification of the Arab nation and the establishment of a strong relationship with Europe. As regards the rest of the world, the Libyan leader voiced the hope for a "clarification", Andreotti told newsmen after the encounter.

According to the foreign minister, Al-Qadhdhafi also showed moderation on two past disputes with the Italian Government — Libya's contention that the cruise missiles deployed in Sicily poses a threat to the North African nation and Libyan demands for reparations for the Italian colonial domination of the country in the 1940's.

Sources in the Italian delegation voiced the opinion that Al-Qadhdhafi now views with less hostility the Italian contention that the missiles are "purely defensive" and part of the Western response to the presence of Soviet SS-20 missiles deployed west of the Urals.

Andreotti's discussion of foreign policy issues covered a wide range of international relations and focused in particular on the Mideast and Mediterranean areas.

Al-Qadhdhafi reiterated Libya's support of United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts to find a definitive solution to the Mideast crisis, a position that Andreotti assessed positively. The Italian official also reiterated the need for a "simultaneous" recognition of the existence of the state of Israel by Palestinians and of the rights of the Palestinian people by Israel.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Moroccan King's Envoy, Message

LD010058 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Tripoli, 31 Jul (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution today received brother Ahmed Reda Guedira, envoy of His Majesty King Hassan II, who handed him a message from the king of Morocco.

MOROCCO

Guinean Foreign Minister Leads Delegation on Visit

LD311342 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] A Guinean ministerial delegation led by Foreign Minister Facine Toure is currently on a several-day official visit to Morocco. Mr Toure said on his arrival at Mohammad V Airport last night that he is carrying a message of friendship and brotherhood from the Guinean president to His Majesty King Hassan II. The Guinean foreign minister said that his visit is broadening Guinean-Moroccan relations, which are developing daily, and constitutes an opportunity to renew the bonds of friendship and brotherhood between the Guinean and Moroccan peoples.

The Guinean delegation was welcomed by Foreign Minister Abdelouahed Belkziz; the general secretary of the Information Ministry, Abdelaziz La'bi; the Guinean Ambassador to Morocco; and a representative of the Moroccan-Guinean Cooperation Agency.

Islamic Youth Group Members Sentenced to Death

LD311802 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Casablanca, 31 Jul (MAP) — The criminal chamber at the Court of Appeal in Casablanca today pronounced death sentences on 13 persons — seven of whom are fugitives — from among those accused of belonging to the Al-Jihad squad [fasilat al-jihad] of the Islamic youth organization, led by the so-called 'Abd al-Karim Muti', who is residing abroad.

The trial, which opened on 21 July, passed a sentence of life imprisonment on 34 accused — including 13 fugitives; 20 years imprisonment on 8 accused; 10 years imprisonment on 9 accused; and a sentence of 4 years imprisonment plus a fine of 5,000 dirham on 7 of the accused.

These 71 persons were arrested in the summer of 1983 and charged with conspiring against the regime, urging people to take up arms against the legal government and undermining the sanctities of the country. According to police files the accused set up a secret organization called the Jihad squad, under the leadership of the accused, Mustafa al-Marjawis, in the towns of Casablanca and Mohammedia. They distributed antiregime leaflets and published a secret magazine entitled *AL-MUJAHID* containing articles inciting harm to the safety of the state. The representative for the prosecution underlined the seriousness of the acts attributed to the accused, who adopted Islam as a means to overthrow the regime and who established contacts abroad.

SUDAN

Saudi Arabia's AL-YAWM Interviews Foreign Minister

GF312012 Ad-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 30 Jul 84 pp 1, 4

['Abdallah al-Bashir dispatch from Jidda]

[Excerpt] *AL-YAWM* met with Sudanese Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman during his visit to the Kingdom within the Sudanese delegation led by the information minister currently making a tour of the region. The Sudanese minister spoke frankly and clearly about the delegation's mission in the Kingdom, and spoke about his country's relations with the Kingdom. The discussion with him dealt with Arab, Islamic and international questions in addition to developments which accompanied the implementation of the Islamic shari'a in Sudan.

On Ethiopian provocations against Sudan, Sudanese Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman said: Our relations with Ethiopia have been up and down. When relations were natural, the Soviet Union did not like it. So, they formed the tripartite Aden treaty between Libya, Ethiopia, and Aden. Since then everything has been frozen. Ethiopia has stopped a dialogue with us and has embraced the opposition which has created some problems for us, such as the kidnapping of foreigners working on development projects. This led to the halt of oil explorations at the Jonglei project. The acts of sabotage which originate from Ethiopia are aimed at exhausting our resources and wasting our wealth. Ethiopia is acting as a spearhead for a superpower to undermine security and stability in Sudan.

This is the truth and it is a pity that Libya is collaborating in this plot. This in short is our problem with neighboring Ethiopia. It has aborted an initiative for peace, reconciliation, and stability. We are adhering to our consistent stand: We are prepared to enter into a dialogue with them on the condition they stop their attacks and training of and supplying of weapons to mercenaries.

WESTERN SAHARA

Reportage on Recent Moroccan-SDAR Clashes

Twenty Killed in Battle

LD311308 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture has issued a statement stating that fighters of the Saharan People's Liberation Army attacked a concentration of Moroccan forces last Wednesday [25 Jul] in Smul Niran, resulting in five soldiers killed, seven injured, and a number of trenches destroyed. The Saharan fighters attacked a position of the royal forces in (Oued Bichad) the following day. The same statement explained that during this battle, which lasted 2 hours, 20 Moroccan soldiers were killed and 17 injured; and 1 machine gun and a [word indistinct] vehicle destroyed. The Saharan statement also pointed out that 13 Moroccan soldiers were killed in another battle which took place last Saturday in Mahbes Jneinat, and 10 were wounded and a radar center, a mortar, a number of trenches and a fuel tank were destroyed.

Moroccan Forces' Centers Hit

LD312342 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] A statement issued by the SADR Ministry of Information and Culture in the liberated territories today on the successful operations carried out by the revolutionaries during 25-30 July, states that these operations were against Moroccan forces' centers' at Smul Niran, (Oued Tichit), (Mahbes Saniyah), El Jachbien and the defensive lines of Dakhla city. The attacks left 98 Moroccan soldiers dead and more than 40 wounded, in addition to the destruction of huge quantities of military equipment and weapons.

ETHIOPIA

Minister Gives Briefing on New Planning System

EA302220 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] A decree has established a national central planning committee to consolidate the country's human, financial, and material resources under short-, intermediate-, and long-term plans.

According to the decree, the former national revolutionary production campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council will from today become the National Central Planning Committee Office. Central planning will direct, administer, and control the national economy, imbue the means of production with a socialist outlook, develop (?resources), elevate the material and cultural standards of the broad masses, fulfill the goals of the revolution, and further strengthen and expand the participation of the broad masses in the principles of democratic centralism.

Comrade Mersie Ijigu, with the rank of a minister, head of general planning of the National Central Planning Committee, and COPWE Central Committee alternate member, this afternoon gave a briefing on the decree to reestablish the national revolutionary development campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council. In the briefing, Comrade Mersie Ijigu noted that the chairman of the National Central Planning Committee is Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, PMAC and COPWE chairman and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. He added that the preparation and execution of the National Central Planning Committee is aimed at bringing about a socialist outlook and strengthen the acceptance of general central planning by the masses.

Comrade Mersie said that to enable it to formulate comprehensive economic policies based on studies, prepare annual and half-yearly control (?systems), change over from the usual budgetary system to a planned system, and utilize the national human, financial, and material resources, the National Central Planning Committee supervises the following: a national planning committee, an executive committee, a zonal planning committee, a regional planning office, a provincial development council, and a district development council. Comrade Mersie noted that these bodies under the National Central Planning Committee had been formed after assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the organizations of other socialist countries and of the national revolutionary development campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council and, in general, the conditions prevailing in the country. Comrade Mersie added that it was believed that the restructuring of the planning organization would benefit the preparation and execution of socialist plans.

Tigre People's Liberation Front Claims Battle Victories

EA312009 (Clandestine) Voice of Tigre Revolution in Tigrinya to Ethiopia 1345 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The heroic popular forces of the Tigre People's Liberation Front [TPLF] confronted and inflicted heavy casualties on an enemy force composed of one regular brigade and a 1,300-strong security force moving from Debarek and Belesa to recapture the districts of (Janamora) and (Beyida) in Simen Province in Gonder Region, which had been liberated by the vanguard TPLF. Our heroic popular force fought this enemy force composed of one regular brigade and 300 [figures as received] security forces on 20 July in the environs of Inch'et. On the same day our heroic forces engaged the enemy force composed of two battallions and a 1,000-strong security force moving from Belesa to recapture liberated areas in Simen at (Bisane Michael) and [name indistinct].

During this fighting on 20 July, which went from 2230 to 0030, in the environs of Inch'et and that in (Bisane Michael) and [name indistinct], our heroic popular forces killed 177 enemy soldiers, including two company commanders and two district administrators, injured over 100, and captured 40. They also captured 1 [word indistinct], 1 50-caliber (?machine gun), 1 RPG-7 with 40 (?rounds of ammunition), 94 medium and light weapons, 2 pistols, 60 hand greanades, 54,004 boxes and ammunition [as heard], 1 PRP-77 radio, 82 mules, and other useful items. The rest of the enemy force was forced to retreat in disarray.

On 27 July our heroic fighters ambushed an enemy force retreating from Belesa to Debark after it failed in its attempt to recapture liberated areas, and a battalion sent as reinforcement, and inflicted heavy damages. In this 4-hour-long battle the enemy lost 40 dead, including a company commander and 4 lieutenants, 70 wounded, and (?6) captured. Also captured were 1 machine gun, 4 medium weapons, 31 light weapons, 3 pistols, 52 hand grenades, 27 (?round of ammunition) for RPG-7's, 42,500 rounds of ammunition, 27 mules and donkeys with their loads, tents, and other useful items. During this engagement the people of Simen played an important role by standing on the side of our popular force.

KENYA

Briefs

FRG Loan Agreements — Nairobi, July 27: Kenya and Germany today signed an agreement for shs 315 million for the Kiambere hydro-power project and another shs 40 million agreement for commodity aid to the country's parastatal organisations. The shs 315 million is in the form of a soft loan in which the German Government will contribute, among other donors, to the giant Kiambere project, which will meet Kenya's electrical demand by 1988 when the project is completed. [Excerpt] [Nairobi KNA in English 1255 GMT 27 Jul 84 EA]

TANZANIA

Briefs

Rice, Flour Price Rise — The government has announced new retail prices for rice and wheat flour which are to be effective beginning August. As a result of this price review, rice will cost 13 shillings and 40 cents per kilo instead of the current price of 7 shillings and 20 cents. Wheat flour will now cost 14 shillings and 50 cents per kilo instead of the current price of 8 shillings. Announcing this, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development Ndugu John Machunda said retail prices for these commodities have not been affected for the past 2 years whereas the prices for these crops to farmers have risen each year. [Excerpt] [Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1000 GMT 30 Jul 84 EA]

Outgoing Sudanese Ambassador — Dar es Salaam: The minister of foreign affairs, Ndugu Benjamin Mkapa, held a reception today for the Sudanese Ambassador Kamal Mustafa el-Mekki who has completed his tour of duty in the country. [Summary] [Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1900 GMT 27 Jul 84 EA]

UGANDA

Defense Minister on Armed Forces Training

EA302212 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The vice-president and minister of defense, Mr Paulo Muwanga, has declared that the government will continue to invest heavily in training the members of the Uganda Armed Forces because of its commitment to build a small, disciplined and efficient national army. The vice-president, who was introducing the vote of the Ministry of Defense in parliament, said this year's estimates are higher than those of last year because of the high cost of training the Army both locally and abroad. He also attributed the increase to the high rate of the dollar, as most of the equipment for the Army is purchased from abroad.

Mr Muwanga reiterated that the prime objective of the government is to build a national army dedicated to the service of the nation.

He paid tribute to the late COS, Maj Gen Oyite Ojok, for his tireless efforts in realizing this objective. He pledged the Army's determination to stick to his (?ideals).

The vice-president appealed to MP's not to encourage soldiers to believe that the Army is a band of elements who are there to loot and torture. He also cautioned them against making statements which create an impression that the country is in total chaos. He made it clear that the government has no torture chambers as it had been alleged by some members. He said the Uganda National Liberation Army [UNLA] is doing everything possible to ensure that citizens enjoy their right to protection of life and property.

On banditry, Vice President Muwanga said the government has a duty to fight against it, and called for support from every citizen in this endeavour. Mr Muwanga paid tribute to Ugandans who have assisted the UNLA in the performance of its work at this difficult time.

Replying to issues raised by the members of the National Assembly later, the vice president disclosed that the question of soldiers (?manning) roadblocks had been discussed by him and the minister of internal affairs and will soon come up with a decision. He hoped that the Army will in the near future be back in the barracks and the police will be capable of maintaining and carrying out their work without calling on the Army for assistance. He disclosed that the man responsible for the loss of life at Namugongo near Kampala recently had been arrested and is awaiting trial.

More than 21 billion shillings was passed for the Ministry of Defense under current expenditure for the year 1984/85 and two billion for development expenditure.

Democratic Party Regional Leader Dies in Prison

EA272025 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] The minister of internal affairs, Dr Luwuliza-Kirunda, has disclosed that the chairman of the Democratic Party in Kamuli district, Mr (Kiria Kalikwani), died while in detention at Luzira 2 weeks ago. Answering a question in parliament this morning, the minister regretted the death which was caused by blood clots in two main veins which return blood to the lungs.

Dr Kirunda told parliament that by yesterday there were 1,142 detainees in Luzira prison and they were in good health. He said the detainees were mainly people who have allegedly involved themselves in banditry activities and cattle rustling.

Briefs

USSR Komsomol Visitor — As the Uganda Government, the National Union of Students of Uganda, NUSU, pursued a foreign policy on nonalignment and welcomes ideas and assistance from all who are willing to give them. [sentence as heard] The president of the NUSU, Mr Paul (Masava), stated this when he was receiving the deputy chief of (?section) of the Soviet youth movement, the Komsomol, Mr Yuriy (Kakov), in Kampala. Mr (Kakov) said the Komsomol and NUSU have a vital role to play in their respective countries and as vanguards seeking the development of their countries. He promised to study the proposals put to him by NUSU leadershop and pledged to continue its good and cordial working relationship between NUSU and his organization. He left today for home. [Excerpts] [Kampala Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 29 Jul EA]

CHAD

Niger's Kountche Meets Habre, Press During Stopover

AB310900 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Niger President Seyni Kountche made a refueling stopover in Ndjamena late this afternoon. The Niger leader was welcomed at the airport by President Habre, the members of the Central Committee of the National Union for Independence and Revolution, and those of the National Consultative Council. The two heads of state held a 20-minute talk in the airport lounge. Then President Kountche answered questions put to him by newsmen. Concerning the war in our country, the Niger head of state expressed the hope for a reconciliation of all Chadians in their minds and in their hearts.

[Begin recording] [Kountche] First of all I want to use the occasion of my stopover in Ndjamena, which I am pleased to visit again, to meet President Hissein Habre who, in spite of his busy schedule, had made it a point to take part in the Niamey summit meeting of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel.

We are very much attached to the establishment of peace in Chad. This is why we take part in all meetings aimed at restoring peace to Chad. Even though we did not go to Addis Ababa, we took an active part in the preparation for the Addis Ababa meeting, which could unfortunately not be held. The brotherly country of Congo and its president, Sassou-Nguesso, are trying to bring Chadians together. We commend these efforts and initiatives because we want peace to be restored to Chad, we want a true reconciliation in the hearts and minds so that all the children of Chad can address themselves to the true battle which is the struggle for development. All Chadians must (?forget their quarrel) in order to meet in Brazzaville. This is the only condition for putting an end to the Chadian tragedy — I am sorry for the term.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr President, in the 25 July issue of *JEUNE AFRIQUE*, you said that the OAU is blocked by the problems of Western Sahara and Chad, and cannot address itself to the real economic and social tragedy of the continent. What concrete proposals will you make in the upcoming OAU summit in order to settle these two conflicts forever?

[Kountche] Wherever the 20th summit will be held, the heads of state will transcend all these difficulties, that is the Chadian crisis, the Western Sahara conflict, and so many other problems. We hope that the supreme interest of our organization will prevail. It must be recalled that since April 1980 in Lagos, when the basis for the veritable development of our continent was laid, the OAU has not really addressed itself to the problems of our underdevelopment and our underequipment. I hope that we will definitively overcome these misunderstandings so that we can devote our attention to the construction of our continent [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Mr President, it seems that Niger is threatened by Libyan expansionism. Part of Niger territory is reportedly occupied by Libya. What is Niger's policy in order to stop Al-Qadhdhafi's progress?

[Kountche] We do not think part of Niger is occupied by Libya. But we will say this. If you do not want somebody outside your house to come in, do not give him the opportunity. This is why we tell our friends from all countries to have in mind only the supreme interests of their countries, to forget their differences, in order not to provide such an opportunity. Libya is a member of our organization, with common borders with Chad and Niger. An outstanding world leader is used to saying that one can choose his friends, but one cannot choose his neighbors. In Niger, our policy is based on relations of mutual understanding with all our neighbors. We have not chosen them to be our neighbors and vice versa. So we should maintain relations of solidarity, trust, brotherhood, and mutual assistance. [end recording]

Envoy Brings Biya Message to Habre, Comments

AB312225 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpts] A Cameroonian envoy, Abdoulaye Babale, arrived in Ndjamena this morning with a message from President Paul Biya to President Hissein Habre. The Cameroonian minister of town planning and housing, who was accompanied by the governor of Cameroon's Extreme North Province, was received immediately by the head of state. After the audience, he reaffirmed his country's attachment to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states. He expressed, however, the keen desire of the Cameroonian Government to see peace restored to Chad. The minister also said that his country hoped that Chadians would finally meet — in Brazzaville, for example — in order to reach an agreement once and for all. Listen to Abdoulaye Babale speaking with Lodjasoni:

[Begin recording] [Babale] Cameroon has always respected the OAU fundamental principle of noninterference in sovereign states' affairs. But Cameroon is Chad's neighbor, a brotherly country, and is therefore interested in the holding of the reconciliation conference scheduled to take place in Brazzaville. Cameroon hopes the conference will take place effectively and that our Chadian brothers will find a solution leading to national reconciliation since the problem of Chad is first of all one concerning Chadians. Cameroon is ready to contribute whatever is necessary toward a solution to the problem.

[Lodjasoni] Mr Minister, your country has just gone through a difficult period. After this somewhat upsetting period in Cameroon's history, how is Cameroon? What is Cameroon's political, economic, and (?social) situation?

[Babale] I will answer you by saying simply that Cameroon is doing very well, as an authoritative voice — that of President Biya himself — stated. This is because the events which you refer to lasted only 24 hours. Now Cameroon is doing very well. There is peace, stability, and the economic development is continuing harmoniously. The government under His Excellency Paul Biya maintains relations of cooperation, friendship, and good-neighborliness with all the countries in the central African subregion as well as 11 other countries dedicated to peace, freedom, cooperation, and development. [end recording]

Radio Bardai Comments on Chances for Reconciliation

AB311340 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 2000 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] During a press conference held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde said that the next OAU summit, which will be held in the Ethiopian capital, seems to be compromised by the Chadian and Western Saharan issues. Concerning the Chadian issue, he confirmed the demands made by the Ndjamena group to side-step the pan-African organization in the current efforts at convening a roundtable conference in Brazzaville.

Furthermore, the head of the Ethiopian diplomatic service confirmed to the international press the conditions put forward by the national confusion leaders for their participation in such a meeting; namely, attending such a meeting as head of state facing his so-called opponents. Mr Goshu Wolde recalled that this same intransigent attitude of the head of the Ndjamena group was the cause of the failure of the 9 January Addis Ababa roundtable conference. It should be recalled that Goshu Wolde had returned home after a diplomatic tour which took him to Zaire, Congo, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Paris, Rabat, Algiers, and Tripoli.

As could be expected, the Chadian crisis was also raised at the 27 July opening session of the third ordinary congress of the Congolese Labor Party. In fact, in his speech concerning the Chadian problem, the Congolese head of state emphasized that his government will spare no efforts to help the Chadian people to regain peace in their country.

Meanwhile, as can be noticed, in spite of the concessions made by the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] to participate in a preparatory meeting, the neocolonial group of Ndjamena sticks to its extremist position. In an interview on Radio Monte Carlo, the head of the antinationalist clique, in fact, reaffirmed that his so-called government will meet its opponents in a preparatory meeting. The head of the neocolonial administration even stressed that this time his party will seriously tackle the national reconciliation problem. What strange language! This means that in the previous negotiations for peace, the French imperialist agents had never tackled the issue with any seriousness.

Another twaddle talk given on Radio Monte Carlo by the neocolonial government to justify the towing of the French thesis of a preliminary meeting is the idea that what Chadians say among themselves is one thing and what they say in public is another thing. Can one be more disparaging and slanderous to one's people? When one thinks seriously about what the agent Hissein Habre said, it means that Chadians are not people to be taken by their words. This is a very serious and humiliating judgement on the Chadian people. We want to point out to him that an exclusively Chadian meeting is not necessarily a guarantee for the success of a decision made with common accord. The example of Lagos, to cite only that, is still fresh in our memory. Can the head of the Ndjamena clique give us the guarantee that minutes of an exclusively Chadian meeting will not find their way to the Elysees through the French Embassies in Africa? Can the head of the French imperialist agents in Chad assure us that he will negotiate without consulting his French masters and without their directives? For our part, we have taken note of the philanthropical gestures [words indistinct] from Ndjamena, that by putting forward the idea of a preliminary session to the negotiations, they only thereby want to help the GUNT to get itself out of any Libyan pressures. But we will also not forget to ask him these questions: Is the Libyan influence more painful than the influence of their French protectors who dare liberate others?

Still concerning the inter-Chadian negotiations, the neocolonial administration, in its usual demagogic attitude, has deformed the GUNT position concerning its proposals for a peace conference in Ndjamena. The GUNT had clearly stated that it will only take part in a national reconciliation conference in Ndjamena on condition that the French troops of the Operation Manta leave that city with all their forces.

Concerning the UNIR, National Union of Incorrigible Renegades [Ndjamena rendering: National Union for Independence and Revolution], the rebel leader stressed the democratic and nondogmatic nature of his new political formation. What a blasphemy! We want to state here that the very presence of the head of the Ndjamena clique at the head of that party is a negation to any democratic expression. In the name of what sort of democracy does he prohibit people in his empire from listening to Radio Bardai and arrogates to himself the power of deciding on the life or death of [words indistinct] outside his French protectors.

As for the foolhardy pretentions of Hissein Habre and especially his obsession at winning back all the GUNT forces by all means, there seem to be no bounds to them. He states without any blush that there is a place in the National Union of Incorrigible Renegades for all Chadians. From this pretentious statement, one does not need a lens to perceive the final outcome of the political maneuver of the agent Habre: to win all the Chadian political factions over to his side and at the appropriate make himself the absolute master of the country. As we cannot prevent somebody from dreaming, so will the GUNT spare no effort to foil the satanic ambitions and the dictatorial tendencies of the head of the Ndjamena group.

According to the head of the Ndjamena gang: For 18 years we have been fighting against Al-Qadhdhafi, he stressed. One may easily say that it might have been a slip of the tongue when he made that statement. But knowing him as he is, we want to remind him of this: A simple calculation enables us to say that the Libyan revolutionary regime has been in existence for only 15 years. Therefore, which Al-Qadhdhafi is he referring to? Of course, when he conveniently buried the Frolinat, as he did, it is difficult to remember that it is actually 18 years since the Chadian people have been fighting, not against the Libyan revolution but against French imperialism. Hissein Habre's statement confirms, if need be, that he was really injected into the Chadian revolutionary movement by his French creators.

Concerning the situation prevailing in the south of the country, he made a public admission of the failure of the political and military maneuvers of the head of the Ndjamena group when he admitted the active presence of the commandos of the National Liberation Army, whereas these [past] few days his group was loudly proclaiming a return of calm in that part of the country.

Finally, concerning the situation prevailing in the center of the country, the categorical refusal of the chief rebel to give the least details about results of a mission of his envoys to this troubled region is a proof that his policy of winning back all the people was also a big failure.

GUNT Communique on 'Denigrating' Campaign

AB310929 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 2000 GMT 30 Jul 84

["Communique" issued by the Presidency of the Transitional National Union Government, GUNT, on 30 July]

[Text] In their hysterical and vicious campaign aimed at denigrating the Transitional National Union Government and the Chadian people's revolutionary struggle for liberation, the imperialists have been using their media to exploit all the situations and all their traditional agents who serve their unjust cause. Ouchar Tourgoudi is one of these people as he has attempted these past few days to discredit the GUNT, its political forces, and its friends.

Ouchar Tourgoudi, who was gracefully retrieved by the French imperialists and has been openly used against the Chadian people ever since, has just accomplished another task for his non-African masters.

But, then, who is this man who has been brandishing the names of all intermediary enemies of Chad and Africa? Ouchar Tourgoudi, who resigned from the GUNT over a year ago, using a procedure that is as undignified as asking permission to leave in order to escape from the difficulties and to find money, is no stranger in neocolonialist circles. In fact, in the first neocolonialist government he was renowned for his antirevolutionary action in favor of the former colonial power. Taking advantage of the recent confused political period, he slipped within the ranks of the revolution, not to contribute to the liberation struggle but to carry out his dirty task for France.

By criticizing the Libyans with words coined up by his overseas masters, the traitor, Ouchar Tourgoudi, who is broken over the failure of his mission due to the strength of the GUNT, has fallen so low as to use filthy language in criticizing the GUNT. His opposition to the Green Book, which is nevertheless recognized as the universal revolutionary theory on the four corners of the earth, reveals the very odious nature of the former minister of information who has resumed his former behavior.

The agent Ouchar Tourgoudi tells all who are prepared to listen to him that the Libyan regime aims at dividing Chadians and annexing their lands. This song is not new. It somehow constitutes the recovery cry of this rotten product, all the more so because the traitor Ouchar Tourgoudi has carefully overlooked the presence of the French imperialists through their recolonization exercise of Operation Manta.

The GUNT, benefitting from the trust of the Chadian people who guaranteed with success the struggle it is conducting, wants to take this opportunity to point out, once and for all, that its relations with the brotherly regime in Libya are essentially based on anti-imperialist and militant solidarity, the respect for national sovereignty, and the noninterference in the affairs of others. Therefore, the false and slanderous statements made by agent Ouchar Tourgoudi leave us quite indifferent, just as his departure from the GUNT a few months ago.

Issued in Bardai on 30 July 1984 by the Presidency of the GUNT.

CONGO

Upper Voltan Leader May Attend PCT Congress Session

AB310931 Paris AFP in French 0816 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 31 Jul (AFP) — On Monday evening in Brazzaville, Captain Pierre Ouedraogo, a member of the Upper Voltan National Council of the Revolution, announced the possible visit of Captain Thomas Sankara to the Congolese capital on Tuesday.

Capt Ouedraogo, secretary general of Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR), who is leading Upper Volta's delegation to the third ordinary congress of the Congolese Labor Party (PCT), made this known during his address to the participants. The Upper Voltan minister for higher education, Mr Tiendrebeogo, also arrived in Brazzaville on Monday evening to attend the closing session of the sole Congolese party.

The fourth day of the congress was entirely devoted to presentation of messages by foreign delegations that are attending the congress. The third ordinary congress of the PCT will end on Tuesday.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

AFP on Economic Difficulties Facing Country

AB270855 Paris AFP in English 0815 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] Malabo, July 27 (AFP) — Equatorial Guinea celebrates next week the fifth anniversary of the fall of its late dictator Francisco Macias Nguema — amid relative political calm but with an economy still in tatters after 11 years under the former "president for life."

The celebrations August 3 come as this former Spanish colony takes what analysts here see as a crucial step in its economic and political development by joining neighboring Cameroon, Congo, Gabon and the Central African Republic in the Economic and Customs Union of Central Africa, known under its French acronym UDEAC.

The Malabo government led by President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo has presented the move as the only possible way to pull the country out of the economic nightmare left by a decade of mismanagement and isolation under the Macias regime.

When the former president fell in a coup d'etat on August 3, 1979, Equatorial Guinea's economy, previously based on exports of timber and on cocoa said to be the best in the world, was in ruins.

Even the traditional fishing industry had been destroyed, in large part by a treaty giving the Soviet Union exclusive fishing rights in offshore areas between this geographically divided country's two provinces, the island of Bioko, where the capital Malabo is located, and the mainland province of Rio Muni.

Five years later, the leadership here says the country's economic and political lamdscape is changing "radically."

Colonel Obiang, in a recent interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, pointed to the country's new constitution as evidence of this change, saying the people could now "express themselves freely" and would be asked to do so at the end of the current transition period.

But despite official declarations and some concrete examples of progress, diplomats here stress that important political and economic problems remain.

As evidence of continuing uncertainty, the head of state maintains a presidential guard of several hundred Moroccan soldiers. They are there, Col Obiang said, to ensure his security against "revolutionaries and personal ambitions."

"I need more time to make my policy of democratization understood and to train the Army according to democratic principles," he said.

Another problem facing the administration is longstanding hostility between Equatorial Guinea's different ethnic groups, primarily the Bubi community on Bioko and the Fang people living on the mainland. "Overtures made by the president, who is Fang, towards the Bubi have not been fully satisfactory until now," lamented one Western diplomat here.

But the greatest hurdles facing the government remain economic. Following the Macias decade, Equatorial Guinea has virtually no basic industry, no established administration and no export sector capable of earning needed foreign currency.

Exports of tropical woods, which totalled 360,000 tonnes at independence in 1968, had plummeted to 72,000 tonnes by 1983.

Last year, the country's gross national product was 60 million dollars, of which 18 million came from exports. But interest payments on Malabo's foreign debt this year will be 17 million dollars, all but wiping out its meagre export earnings.

"This is a ruined economy," said a foreign economic expert here. But he added that "it would take little to change that. Now that the political determination exists, it is today that everything is being decided."

The trump card in Equatorial Guinea's bid for economic recovery was the country's entry last December in the UDEAC and its consequent entry into the French franc zone.

Malabo hopes to use UDEAC as a means of integrating its economy into existing regional trade networks, stabilizing its currency and attracting foreign investment.

There are also signs that Equatorial Guinea may have promising oil deposits, though experts say it is still too early to determine if the fields could be exploited commercially.

"This country could be a future Eldorado," said one diplomat here. "But the means for exploiting it remain to be defined."

BENIN

Kerekou Reelected, To Name New Cabinet

AB311710 Paris AFP in French 1638 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Cotonou, 31 Jul (AFP) — General Matthieu Kerekou was reelected president of the People's Republic of Benin by the Revolutionary National Assembly, ANR, on Tuesday.

As the sole candidate of the Benin People's Revolutionary Party, President Kerekou was reelected through a secret ballot by the [words indistinct] people's commissioners.

Gen Kerekou, who has been reelected for a new 5-year term of office, was born in 1933 at Kouarfa in the northern province of Benin. He has been at the head of the Beninese state since 26 October 1972, the date on which the revolutionary process was launched in the country.

According to the program of the current session of the ANR, President Kerekou will present his new cabinet at the end of the week.

Further on President's Reelection

AB312055 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpts] As was earlier announced in the 1315 newscast, the (?honorable) representatives at the Revolutionary National Assembly this morning elected the president of the Republic and head of state and chairman of the National Executive Council in accordance with the terms of section 151/53 of the Constitution of our country, the People's Republic of Benin. This morning, Michel Alladaye, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and spokesman of the Central Committee, presented the report of our avant-garde party, the Benin People's Revolutionary Party, after the extraordinary session of the Central Committee, which was held on Saturday, 28 July 1984, and at which Comrade Mathieu Kerekou was chosen as the presidential candidate.

It was after 1430 local time that the election of the president of the Republic took place.

PANA Lists National Assembly Committee Leaders

AB311400 Dakar PANA in French 1320 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Cotonou, 31 Jul (ABP-BEN-PANA) — The Revolutionary National Assembly (ANR) set up last Friday continued its work on Monday by electing its committee comprising 15 members against 29 for the first assembly. The principal committee members are:

Chairman: Romain Vilon Guezo
First vice chairman: Coger Imorou Garba
Second vice chairman: Joseph Degla
Secretary general: Pierre Otcho

It will be recalled that this is the second mandate for Romain Vilon Guezo who had already been the chairman of the Permanent Committee of the first assembly.

Moreover, a post of deputy secretary general has been created contrary to the preceding assembly.

GHANA

Census Shows Population Above 12 Million

AB312228 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Preliminary results of the 1984 population census show that Ghana's population is 12,205,574. The 1970 figure was 8,559,313. This is an increase of 42.59 percent. An official statement gives the breakdown of the population figures for the various regions.

Ashanti	2,089,683
Eastern Region	1,679,483
Greater Accra	1,420,066
Volta Region	1,201,095
Brong Ahafo	1,179,407
Northern Region	1,162,645
Central Region	1,145,520
Western Region	1,116,930
Upper East	771,584
Upper West	439,161

According to the statement, the government statistician presented the results at the end of June as promised.

Cuban Friendship Delegation Concludes Visit

AB312210 Accra Domestic Service in English 2145 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] A two-man delegation of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with African Peoples left Accra today for Tripoli, Libya, on the final stage of its African tour after a 3-day visit to Ghana. During its stay here, the delegation held discussions with the Ghana-Cuba Friendship Society aimed at improving the bonds of friendship between the peoples of the two countries and consolidating the joint efforts for the forward march of their two revolutions. It also participated in a number of activities marking the solidarity day with the people of Cuba and Nicaragua. The delegation has already visited Nigeria and Upper Volta.

Newspaper Registration Deadline Extended

AB281126 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 28 Jul 84

[Text] The Ministry of Information has extended the date for private newspaper owners and publishers to register with it. The exercise should have ended on the 13th of this month but so far only 60 organizations have registered. This was announced by the secretary for information, Miss Joyce Aryee, when she met private newspaper owners and publishers in Accra yesterday. She explained that the purpose of the registration exercise is to enable her ministry to have an idea of the number of publishers and newspaper owners in the country. Also, it will help in planning ahead for the supply of inputs for the industry. Miss Aryee said in view of the shortage of inputs because of the scarcity of foreign exchange, it is necessary to streamline the distribution system. The exercise should therefore not be seen as control by her ministry but as a way of enhancing the development of newspapers in the country.

She referred to the concentration of newspapers in Accra and Kumasi and suggested news industry should spread out a bit more and relate to people in the other regions as well. Miss Aryee also commented on the quality of newspapers in the country and said that will be taken care of in the streamlining exercise. She asked newspapers owners to think of the reputation of Ghanaian journalism and its credibility internationally, adding that the quality of journalism is a barometer for the progress of a nation. Whatever the newspapers come out with is a reflection of standards within the nation.

GBC 'Near Collapse'; PNDC 'Donation' Sought

AB311740 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] For more than 40 years, the GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] has been working with the same old and worn out equipment for which spare parts could not even be traced on the world market, and for 20 years, GBC Television suffers from the same sickness. As we look back on the road we have traversed in the colossal task of informing, educating, and entertaining the public, the GBC feels disillusioned as to whether it has been able to meet the demands of its audiences. Much as we appreciate criticisms from our listeners and will continue to be guided by them so that together we serve effectively the social needs of our people, we feel it is time we lay bare facts of our predicament before our people. The truth of the matter is that GBC is old. GBC must go modern. Lack of initiaitive, foresight, and apathy on the part of past governments have brought us to near collapse. Governments come and identify our problems with promises that only become pen-and-paper documents meant for the archives. It is not only frustrating but really disheartening and heart rending to be working with very old equipment that would not give you even job satisfaction.

Many countries, both developing and developed, have used radio and television for political and socioeconomic development. The immense role radio and television have played to educate, illuminate, enrich, and entertain our numerous audiences both at home and abroad cannot be overemphasized. We are only disappointed that previous governments which know of these facts and the problems facing the GBC have underplayed the urgency of what was needed to make this corporation make its mark on the continent. In fact, they portrayed the problems as nothing more than the ripples in the calm lake. Now things have gone so bad that something ought to be done. The PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has made some modest efforts. It is estimated that the rehabilitation will not cost more than $30 million. As we celebrate the golden anniversary, surely the government can provide this amount, judging by the importance it attaches to the role of the GBC. Perhaps the government could look at it as a special golden jubilee donation at $2 per head to the 15 million people of Ghana.

GBC Television To Broadcast in Color by End of Year

AB311525 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] television is to go color before the end of the year. This was announced in Accra today by the director general of the corporation, Fifi Hesse, at the formal launching of activities marking the golden jubilee celebration of the corporation next year. The theme for the celebration is broadcasting and national development. Mr Hesse noted that the power of broadcasting to help shape the national destiny now stands out vividly more than ever before; that is, there is a national appetite for the transfer of power to those at the grassroots level. He emphasized that the GBC will guide the social and political change and make it grow.

The secretary for information, Miss Joyce Aryee, who formally launched the anniversary, said the role of GBC to help in the developmental effort of the country is a very important one. She observed that the 49 years of GBC has been full of good works, difficulties, and great challenge. It is for this reason that the government is concerned in providing the necessary tools to enhance the work of the corporation. Miss Aryee is optimistic that a year from now there should be remarkable improvement in the corporation's output.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Suspended Former Minister Given New Duties

AB312155 Paris AFP in French 1426 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Bissau, 31 Jul (AFP) — Avito Jose da Silva, a former minister who had been suspended from the country's sole party for 1 year for taking part in the attempted coup against Prime Minister Saude Maria, has been appointed permanent secretary in the Ministry of Rural Development and Fisheries by Guinea-Bissau President General Joao Bernardo Vieira. Before his suspension, Da Silva was the minister of national education. Also, Eduardo Fernandes and Hugo Borges, both officials in the Ministry of Commerce, have been appointed permanent secretaries in the Ministries of Finance and Commerce respectively.

IVORY COAST

Colombian Coffee Federation Delegation Visits

AB311950 Paris AFP in French 1253 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Abidjan, 31 Jul (AFP) — A Colombian delegation headed by Jorge Cardenas, the Colombian Coffee Federation general manager, has been visiting Abidjan since Sunday to hold talks with the Ivorian authorities in charge of coffee matters. This visit takes place less than 2 months before the opening of the London negotiations on 17 December on export quotas for the forthcoming campaign. The Colombian delegation held a first working session on Monday at the Agricultural Production Stabilization Fund in Abidjan with an Ivorian delegation headed by Denis Bra-Kanon, minister of agriculture, water, and forests.

During the session, they decided to strengthen the Brazil-Colombia-Ivory Coast (the three main world coffee producers) connection, which, according to Mr Cardenas, would make it possible to check market fluctuations "efficiently."

Mr Cardenas expressed his great concern about the defense of the producers' interests against the consumers. According to him, a clear stand by the producers is imperative before the big September meeting in London which will set export quotas. For his part, the Ivorian minister of agriculture said that Mr Cardenas' visit took place at a particularly important time for the coffee trade. Talking about the problems which arose during the last campaign, which was marked in the Ivory Coast by the drought, Bra-Kanon said that speculation has played a decisive role. Our export quota, he said, is more important to us than the prices. On this issue, the minister denounced certain tendentious allegations reporting insufficient export of coffee from the African and Malagasy Coffee Organization. Like Mr Cardenas, the Ivorian minister agreed on the need to strengthen the Brazil-Colombian-Ivory Coast connection and said the Colombian delegation's visit could help solve some problems which might hinder cooperation among the producers.

The Colombian delegation was received on Monday night by Simeon Ake, the Ivorian foreign minister. The delegation will visit Divo and Yamoussoukro, the new political capital, on Thursday before leaving the country on Friday.

LIBERIA

Doe Meeting With Reagan Envoy Reported

AB301517 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
0655 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Summary] The head of state and commander in chief, Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, has received a special envoy from President Ronald Reagan, Major General Vernon Anthony Walters. "They are reported to have met behind closed doors for about 30 minutes at the weekend." The outcome of the meeting is yet unknown but observers believe that it dealt with matters relating to both countries' future. Maj Gen Walters was earlier accompanied to the Executive Mansion by the foreign minister, T. Ernest Eastman.

Doe Appoints Deputy Finance, Planning Ministers

AB311730 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1600 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Two deputy ministers have been appointed by the president of the Interim Assembly, Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, with the advice and consent of the Assembly. Those appointed by the head of state are Mr Lindsay Heath, who takes over as deputy finance minister for adminstration replacing Mr Andrew Ray, and Mr Elija Taylor takes over as deputy planning minister replacing Mr Paul Jeffy.

Both Andrew Ray and Paul Jeffy were recently named members of the National Interim Assembly thus leaving their previous posts vacant. In separate letters for the two officials, the head of state hoped they would accept the new positions with a firm commitment to improve the economic conditions of their country.

Official Suspended for Defrauding Government

AB301515 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
0655 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Summary] The board of directors of the Liberian Marketing Association has been suspended by the internal affairs minister for defrauding the government of revenues. "Meanwhile, the president of the board of directors of the Liberian Marketing Association has been ordered by the minister of internal affairs to report to the Justice Ministry for prosecution."

NIGER

Kountche To Make Pilgrimage to Mecca

AB301800 Niamey Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Brigadier General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, leaves Niamey this afternoon for Jidda from where he will perform the pilgrimage to Mecca. He is accompanied by Allele Elhadji Habibou, minister of justice.

NIGERIA

Lagos: Media Foments Discord Between OPEC, Nigeria

AB311236 Lagos International Service in English
0830 GMT Jul 84

[Commentary by Ishola Dada]

[Text] Once again, the Western media are at it. And this time they are trying to bring their attention on the OPEC. Their goal is to cause confusion among the member states with the view to splitting them and thereby ensure the demise of the organization. That OPEC is one of the organizations that imperialists will not like to see remain solid is not surprising. What is rather baffling is why they chose to achieve this goal by trying to pitch Nigeria against the other members. It is hard to understand what could induce them to carry the false report that Nigeria has pulled out of the organization when it was only 2 weeks ago that OPEC acceded to the request of Nigeria to increase her oil quota per day by about 130,000 barrels a day. We know as a matter of fact that before and during the last ministerial meeting of OPEC in Vienna, Austria, the imperialists, backed by their powerful media, had tried to use Nigeria's demand for an increase to sow the seeds of discord among the member countries but failed in the end because the member country they had particularly wanted to use, Saudi Arabia, was aware of the economic plight of Nigeria. As a matter of fact, the reason for the mature handling of Nigeria's request was that Nigeria had done her spadework well among OPEC members before presenting her request.

Of course, the hostile attitude of the Western media to the OPEC is not a new thing. In the past, they have tried to blow a little disagreement among members over prices of oil out of proportion. But this has always ended up in helping the OPEC to keep a united front. And right from the inception of the organization, there has been no love lost between the imperialist agents and the OPEC. The imperialists want to sustain their exploitation of less developed countries in order to continue to enjoy cheap oil prices. Consequently, they were not too pleased when, in 1973, the OPEC mustered courage and with a united front won a battle to decide the price for the crude oil sold by its members. The developed countries did not expect anything like it and so they were enraged. One of their acts was to pile up their oil stocks in order to force down the price of crude. When they failed in this bid, they decided to increase the price of their manufactured goods ostensibly on the grounds that they cost more to produce because of the increase in the price of oil. It all backlashed and the result today is the worldwide recession.

Even our once good friend, Britain, could not understand why we should remain a solid member of that august body. Successive British Governments used the North Sea oil, which produces the same quality of crude as ours, to undercut Nigeria by making her own crude cheaper in the oil market. Nevertheless, Nigeria's faith in the OPEC did not and will not wane, our economic difficulties notwithstanding.

The point is that when Nigeria was hard hit by the ceiling on the oil production quota allotted to her, she never nursed any idea of pulling out from the OPEC. It will therefore be absurd for her to now think of pulling out at a time when she has succeeded in getting the organization's consent to increase her production quota. Nigeria has opted to remain a firm member of the OPEC and the statement of our minister for petroleum and energy, Prof Tam David-West, debunking Western media propaganda as completely false, should put those lies of the imperialists to rest. The fact that a delegation of the OPEC is soon to visit Nigeria has shown that nothing has happened to make us change our minds so soon.

The recent decision of the OPEC acceding to our request to increase our oil production quota has cemented the bond of cooperation existing between member states of the organization. Members of the OPEC should view the present maneuvers by the imperialist agents as another of their plan to sow the seed of disunity among them to break the organization. They should therefore strive to maintain their unity no matter the sacrifice such action may impose on them.

First Oil Well Being Drilled in Lake Chad Basin

AB281200 Lagos NAN in English 1152 GMT 28 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 28 (NAN) — The spudding of Nigeria's first oil well in the Lake Chad basin will be performed today by the minister of petroleum and energy, Prof Tam David-West. Spudding is the lowering of the oil rig to make with the ground in the process of drilling. [sentence as received] A source at the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation [NNPC] told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that the minister and members of his team were expected back in Lagos later in the day.

Last month, the NNPC took delivery of a Forex Neptune rig to facilitate oil-drilling in the basin, an area believed to be rich in oil. Before now, drilling and related oil activities had been limited to the Niger delta basin, leading to finds in Cross River, Ondo, Rivers, Bendel and Imo States. The operation in the Chad basin is expected to increase the country's oil reserves and enchance its earnings from oil which is responsible for 95 percent of the country's foreign exchange.

TRIBUNE Against Normalizing Ties With Israel

AB310945 Lagos International Service in English
0830 GMT 31 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The *NIGERIAN TRIBUNE* takes a look at the statement by the external affairs minister on the issue of Nigeria's resumption of diplomatic ties with Israel. The paper does not completely endorse the argument advanced by the minister on the matter. In conclusion, the *TRIBUNE* says in view of the numerous confrontational attitudes of the Israelis toward international issues, Nigeria should consider it not fit to normalize relations with Israel.

UK Diplomat Cited on Return of High Commissioners

AB311620 Lagos SUNDAY CONCORD in English
29 Jul 84 p 1

[Unattributed report: "High Commissioners' Return to London, Lagos Depends on..."]

[Text] A senior British diplomat in Lagos who asked for anonymity has said that the return of Nigeria's high commissioner to London and that of Britain to Lagos to their seats may depend on the outcome of the case going on in London over the Dikko kidnap affair.

The diplomat who said in the normal court process the case could drag on till the end of the year claimed that the attitude of the Thatcher government now is to wait for things to sort themselves out.

The British official said his government asked Major-General Hananniya to stay away from London to spare him the embarrassment of the disclosure to be made about the involvement of the two Nigerian diplomats ordered out of Britain.

The diplomat, however, said that Britain up till now has no direct evidence that the Buhari government was involved in the July 5 luckless abduction of Dikko. All the British police and government have is circumstantial evidence arising from the presence of the two expelled diplomats at the Stansted Airport on the day of the kidnap, he said.

The envoy described the coming of Mr Arthur Whatte, the British charge d'affaires, who arrived in Lagos on Thursday, as a procedural posting and that the plan was initiated about three months ago.

The diplomat said the British high commissioner, Mr Hamilton Whyte, who was ordered by the Federal Government to go home for consultation and has since left was originally due to have commenced a two-month leave this week.

UK Sincerity in Normalizing Ties Questioned

AB311115 Lagos International Service in English 0930 GMT 31 Jul 84

["Viewpoint"]

[Text] Relations between Nigeria and Britain plunged to an all time low early this month following the attempt in London to kidnap fugitive Umaru Dikko. Britain accused the Nigerian Government of involvement in the incident. Despite persisting denial of any involvement in the affair by the Nigerian Government, the Thatcher administration went ahead and expelled two diplomats from the Nigerian High Commission in London. It also barred the high commissioner, who was away in Lagos on consultation, from returning to his post. These unjustifiable acts were in addition to the barbaric treatment given to the crew of a Nigeria Airways plane who were arrested in the wake of the kidnap attempt. Nigeria responded measure for measure, and swiftly, too, to all the precipitate actions by the Thatcher administration.

Appearently overwhelmed by the capacity of the Nigerian Government to contain the British diplomatic assault, the Tory government in London eased its campaign of calumny against Nigeria, at least publicly. British Government officials started speaking of their desire for normalizing relations between their country and Nigeria. However, it was seen that Britain is not sincerely interested in normalizing relations with Nigeria. This is borne out by the harraesment of Nigerians entering the UK. For example, two uniformed policemen with dogs and four plainclothes security agents kept surveillance on a Nigeria Airways cargo plane which was in the UK recently on a routine maintenance. The plane remained under surveillance until its departure and its crew was subjected to strict immigration checks. This, it must be pointed out, was unusual. Against the background of the recent diplomatic row heightened by Britain and her undisguised hostile attitude toward Nigeria, the extra security treatment now reserved for Nigerians entering the UK is an unwarranted act of provocation. The impression being created by the British authorities is that Nigerians are criminals whose every movement must be watched.

We would like to say that this is ridiculous. These actions by the British authorities confirm the notion that the Thatcher administration is spoiling for a fight with Nigeria and will do everything no matter how despicable to achieve its objectives. The special security checks on Nigerians entering the UK contradicts the claim by Britain officials that their country is interested in normalizing relations with Nigeria. Perhaps what Mrs Thatcher's government really wants is a rupture in Anglo-Nigerian relations. For that is the considerable motive for the dimension it has introduced in its diplomatic row with Nigeria.

Buhari Addresses Newly Appointed Envoys

AB310744 Lagos NAN in English 1810 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Tex] Lagos, July 30 (NAN) — The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, today in Lagos urged newly appointed envoys to constantly look for, and report on, areas of possible mutual cooperation between Nigeria and their countries of accreditation.

Receiving 27 new envoys, who visited him at Dodan Baracks, Maj Gen Buhari also urged them to make accountability their watchword. He said that the "utter failure of exhortations and mild punishment in the past" had prompted the Federal Government to enact new laws that provided extraordinary punishment for corruption. He added that a fair trial for all accused and humane treatment for the convicted would remain the administration's watchword.

Maj Gen Buhari said that he expected the highest standard of self-discipline from the envoys. "Without this you cannot foster discipline within your missions or present to the outside world the ideals of the new Nigeria which we of this administration are trying to foster" he added. The head of state said that the Federal Government was proud of the foreign service in the highest capacity. He congratulated them on their appointments and expressed the hope that they would justify the confidence reposed in them.

Mr Ignatius Olisemeka, the ambassador-designate to the U.S., on behalf of the envoys, pledged that they would like (?to live) up to expectations.

The head of state later held a closed-door meeting with the envoys. Present at the ceremony were the minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, and Mr George Dove-Edwin, the permanent secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

Soviet Embassy Report Details Trade With Nigeria

AB281420 Lagos NAN in English 1011 GMT 28 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 27 (NAN) — Nigeria's trade defficit with the Soviet Union reached an all-time high in 4 years in 1983 at 286.3 million naira according to a trade report made available to the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Lagos today. The report, released by the Soviet Embassy in Lagos, showed that Nigeria's imports, worth N348.3 million and exports valued at N62 million, were also at the peak during the period in review.

The deficit for Nigeria was N240.7 million in 1982, N145.8 million in 1981 and N(?74.5) million in 1980.

The report, however, showed the deficit for Nigeria in the first quarter of this year as only N743,000, with imports from USSR at N24.2 million and exports at N23.5 million. It also showed that Nigeria only exports cocoa beans to the Soviet Union and that in 1983, one-third of Nigeria's cocoa beans export was to the Soviet Union. Nigeria imports machinery, cars, tractors, glass, pharmaceutical products and frozen fish from the Soviet Union.

According to the report, the most important project in which the Soviets are involved in Nigeria is the construction of the Ajaokuta Steel Mill which is on a government-to-government basis while the only joint venture in which the USSR has 40 percent interest and Nigerians 60 percent in the Waateco [expansion unknown].

An official of the embassy told NAN that the Soviet Union was interested in having more joint ventures with Nigerians. He listed the areas of interest as cotton, rice and maize cultivation, assembly of tractors and refrigerators, and manufacture of spare parts, bolts, screws and nuts. He also said that the Soviet Union was interested in importing items like tomato juice, mango juice and handicarafts from Nigeria.

Lagos To Host August Anti-Apartheid Seminar

AB291321 Lagos International Service in English
0830 GMT 29 Jul 84

[Text] The international seminar on the legal status of South Africa scheduled for Lagos, the Nigerian capital, next month will deal mainly with the implications of collaborating with the racist South African Government.

The United Nation's assistant secretary general in charge of the Center Against Apartheid, Mr Enuga Reddy, disclosed this to newsmen in New York. Mr Reddy said that the seminar will highlight areas in which countries and individuals were forbidden from communicating with South Africa because of her obnoxious policy of apartheid. He noted that by communicating and dealing with apartheid South Africa on a number of issues, many governments as well as individuals violated the United Nations resolution condemning such association.

Kaduna Radio, TV Announce Scheduling Changes

AB311825 Kaduna Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Radio Nigeria, Kaduna, and Nigerian Television Authority, NTA Kaduna, are to operate skeleton services as from tomorrow. A joint statement by the zonal director of FRCN [Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria] Kaduna, Alhaji Tahiru Mojibo, and the NTA managing director, Alhaji Udu Jibril, said the radio services will operate for 2 hours in the morning. This will be between 0600 and 0800. Both the radio and television will be on the air from 1600 and (?end at) 2315. The statement explained that this follows the inability of FRCN Kaduna to pay for electricity at the [word indistinct] station being used by the two stations, as a result of which supply had been disconnected by NEPA [National Electric Power Authority]. It also explained that the only diesel generator functioning at the station could not be operated for more than 9 hours daily due to technical and financial problems. The (?zonal director) said the skeleton transmission would be maintained for 1 week after which normal services are expected to be restored. However, if the financial situation does not improve the two stations will be closed down. Managements of the two stations apologize to viewers and listeners for the disruption of normal services.

As a result of the decrease in transmissions, some newscasts of Radio Nigeria Kaduna on both English and Hausa services have been rescheduled. The English services news bulletin at 0700 will now come at 0630 while that of 1545 is now to be transmitted at 1630. And in the Hausa service, the 1030 bulletin shifts to 0700 while that of 1630 remains unaffected.

UPPER VOLTA

EEC's Pisani Meets With Sankara, Comments

AB301750 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1330 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpts] The head of state, Captain Thomas Sankara, this morning received Edgar Pisani, European commissioner for development of the EEC. Their discussions, which lasted for about 3 hours, centered on political and technical issues, particularly agriculture. Edgar Pisani spoke to reporters Habibata Dambeke and Celestin Zongo on his meeting with the head of state and answered a question on the ongoing negotiations on the Lome III convention.

[Begin recording] [Pisani] We discussed many issues, some political, some technical. I am here to discover Upper Volta, which I knew only on paper. It is an interesting country. We obviously talked about agriculture and the (?Sourou) dam which has just been completed. We discussed the ambitions of the country and its government, the difficulties encountered, as well as the assistance that the EEC could give to the country. We touched on the Dakar conference and all that we studied in the Senegalese capital on the fight against desert encroachment.

On the political level, we talked at length on the OAU and the need to maintain this very important organization. Presently Africa has no voice in the world because of the difficulties facing this continental organization. We also examined the world situation, and inter-African relations.

[Reporter] Could you tell us what has been accomplished in terms of the Lome III negotiations?

[Pisani] The negotiations began in October 1983. They went quite slowly in the beginning but gained momentum in May during our meeting on the Fiji Islands. They took a very positive turn during the Luxembourg meeting about a month ago, and we should be reaching the conclusions in October or November at the latest to enable us to sign the new and third convention in Lome in early or mid December.

We are still facing some difficult problems which need to be solved, particularly on export of ACP [African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries] products to the EEC. We will surely face more difficulties in the negotiations, but we will certainly come up with a good convention. [end recording]

According to a press release from the Ministry of Planning and Cooperation, Mr Pisani is on a 2-day visit at the invitation of the comrade chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and head of state. During his stay, Mr Pisani, who was received by the head of state this morning, will meet many members of the revolutionary government. He will visit the (?Sourou) valley to inspect ongoing development projects there.

Aid Agreements Signed

AB311130 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] Four agreements involving a total amout of 1.5 billion CFA francs were signed at 1700 today, 30 July 1984, at the office of the minister of planning and cooperation between the EEC, represented by Commissioner Edgar Pisani and Charles Delos, the EEC representative in Upper Volta, and our country which was represented by Comrades Eugene Talata Dondasse and Justin Damo Barro, respectively minister of planning and cooperation and minister of finance.

The first documents, entitled special program to fight famine in the world and working capital for the National Grains Board [OFNACER], consists of the creation of a working capital of 688 million CFA francs to enable the OFNACER to purchase local cereals throughout the territory.

The second agreement, entitled special program to fight famine in the world through afforestation, is aimed at encouraging the retimbering of the Mossi Plateau by creating and improving nurseries and by helping the National Center of Forest Seeds in its projects. The funds made available for this project amount to 172 million CFA francs.

The third agreement consists of a special loan granted to the National Agricultural Credit Fund to enable it to lend about 250,000 CFA francs to 5,000 farmers gathered within village groups for the purchase of a pair of oxen as well as equipment for farming with yoked oxen. The loan amounting to 516 million CFA francs is repayable in 40 years at an interest rate of 0.75 percent and with a 10-year grace period.

The fourth and last agreement concerns a grant of 172 million CFA francs to finance part of the cost of the internal transportation of food aid. This grant was made to Upper Volta by the EEC Commission within the framework of emergency aid to the drought-stricken African countries.

DPRK Military Delegation Arrives for Anniversary

AB281120 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 28 Jul 84

[Text] A top-level DPRK delegation led by General O Kuk-yol, chief of General Staff of the People's Armed Forces of Korea, arrived in our capital yesterday evening. This high-power delegation, which includes mainly general officers representing the three branches of the DPRK Armed Forces, is in the country to take part in the festivities marking the 4 August anniversary.

Committees for the Defense of the Revolution Described

AB311332 Paris AFP in French 1212 GMT 31 Jul 84

[By Philippe Mudry]

[Excerpts] Ouagadougou, 31 Jul (AFP) — "Let us note: Imperialism is capitalism in agony...." Under the dictation of a lecturer, about 150 delegates of Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR) are concluding 4 weeks of political, ideological, and military training in Ouagadougou.

The Upper Voltan revolution will soon be 1 year old; the CDRs also. Created following the call of new head of state Captain Thomas Sankara shortly after the 4 August 1983 coup d'etat, the CDRs have multiplied rapidly and have been burning with enthusiasm "to do away with imperialism and neocolonialism to enable the Upper Voltan people to assume their own destiny."

"(?First of all)," said the lecturer, "we will continue today with the study of imperialism." A delegate: "What topic?" The lecturer: "The parasitism and decay of capitalism." In a moment, questions would follow on the following: The nature of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the role of trade unionism, and the social classes in Upper Volta.

Tomorrow, the delgates will return to the interior of the country, mobilize the rural masses to support the ideals of the "revolution," and, in their turn, teach the militants the "political rudiments essential for the progesss of the revolutionary process."

According to the General Statute published at the end of May, the CDRs constitute "the people's authentic basic organs for the exercise of revolutionary power" through which they "conceive, direct, and control the national life" in all fields. Officials at the National General Secretariat of the CDRs, established in a beautiful villa in the center of Ouagadougou, admit that they do not know the total number of committees but they are satisfied with the mobilization, especially in the interior of the country.

The CDRs — which were not well organized at the beginning and were often suspected of excesses by their "reactionary" detractors — have rapidly acquired considerable weight in the national life. On several occasions, such as the strike of the National Union of Upper Voltan African Teachers in March this year or during the "28 May plot" — which was followed by the execution of the seven main plotters — the motions of the CDRs, calling for firmness and which were tirelessly broadcast by the national radio, were not disavowed by the final decisions of the National Council of the Revolution (CNR), the supreme organ of leadership. The authorities want to maintain control over this sole organized political force.

Sports Stadium Built With PRC Aid Dedicated

AB291030 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 28 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Cooperation between China and Upper Volta is very good and will grow still stronger following the inauguration this morning of the all-sports stadium by the head of state, Comrade Thomas Sankara. After 3 years of assiduous work, this jewel which was acquired at the cost of exactly 6 billion CFA, will amply serve the purposes of Upper Voltan sports. Satisfaction was written on the faces of all the technicians and Upper Voltan people this morning at the inauguration ceremony. The inaugural ceremony started with an address by the leader of the Chinese delegation who expressed his satisfaction with cooperation between our two countries before adding the following:

[Begin recording of unidentified Chinese speaker in Mandarin fading into French translation] At present Third World countries find themselves confronted with the historic task of economic development and nation building. As it is known, China is a socialist developing country. The Chinese socialist government supports South-South cooperation and attaches great importance to it. It strongly recommends the establishment of equitable international economic relations. A peculiar characteristic common to all developing countries is the poor and backward state bequeathed by imperialism and colonialism. This is why cooperation among these poor countries is a cooperation based on equality with reciprocal advantages and whose main objective is mutual development. It is precisely from this standpoint that our premier, Zhao Ziyang, defined the four principles that underline our economic and technical cooperation with African countries during his African tour at the beginning of last year: equality, reciprocal benefits, efficient and diversified relations, and mutual development. [end recording]

The head of state, Comrade Thomas Sankara, then gave the baptismal name to the all-sports stadium. Listen:

[Begin Sankara recording] The all-sports stadium will be called the 4 August Stadium. [Applause]. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Further on Explosion in Luanda Port

MB311705 Luanda ANGOP in English 1658 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Luanda, July 31, (ANGOP) — A sabotage action perpetrated by the imperialism aimed at the destabilisation of the Angolan economy destroyed in the night of Sunday to Monday the Angolan ship *Lundoge* and that of the GDR *Arendsee* loaded with food when both were anchored along the bay of the Luanda's port, official sources reported to ANGOP here.

According to the same source, identified USA-made mines are said to have caused the explosion whose objective was to create panic and make difficult the process of food distribution to the population.

The material used and the sabotage action reveal the methods the CIA uses against Nicaragua in its anxiety to liquidate governments searching (?toward) genuine political and economic independence.

The explosion, which caused two holes on the starboard side of the *Lundoge* hit the fuel tanks, (?without) causing, however, destructive burning nor victims. A part of the load of the two holds of the Angolan ship was reached by the disaster too. According to information gathered in the local [word indistinct] the GDR *Arendsee* suffered the major damages. It has two big holes on the side and the engines room was hit. The ship is at this moment anchored in the Luanda's bay with its load, whose great part is damaged.

In spite of this terrorist action, the port continues normally its activities.

It must be recalled that *Lundoge* is 20.42 m wide and 114 m long with a capacity of 21,379 tonne bulk cargo or 19,539 tonne in bags. The speed of the ship is 15 knots when loaded and 15.5 in ballast. Its dead weight is 15,290 tonnes. It has five holes. [Words indistinct] repairing operations of the two carried on.

Lara Rejects Any Negotiations With 'Puppets'

MB311858 Luanda ANGOP in English 1705 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Brazzaville, July 31 (ANGOP) — The People's Republic of Angola rejects all the possibility of an eventful negotiations between the MPLA-Labor Party and the puppets said Lucio Lara in a press conference addressed following the audience with the Congolese president, Denis Sassou-Nguesso.

Lucio Lara once again refuted rumors disseminated by the Western Media about such possibility and went on saying that UNITA is only an instrument at the service of the international imperialism, while the MPLA-Labor Party fights since the struggle is for the national liberation.

Speaking about the Angolan position on Western Sahara, Lucio Lara pointed out that the People's Republic of Angola recognizes the sovereignty of the Saharan people.

It is noted that during the audience with the Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, the Angolan authority delivered him a personal message of the Angolan head of state, Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Present to the act were the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee secretary for external relations and the Angolan ambassador accredited to Congo respectively, Afonso van Dunem (Mbinda) and Jose Agostinho Neto.

Cape Verde Leader Visits for Talks With Leaders

MB310947 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Aristides Pereira, president of the Republic of Cape Verde, has been in Luanda since yesterday for a 24-hour official visit to Angola. Yesterday he began his official talks with Angolan head of state Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

The question of Namibia's independence, the presence of South African troops in some areas of the Angolan territory, and other themes of interest to the African Continent particularly the question of Chad and Western Sahara, are the main topics of discussion between the two presidents.

It is worthwhile to note that President Aristides Pereira is the coordinator of all diplomatic activity relating to southern Africa within the five Portuguese-speaking African countries.

Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the Angolan head of state, is cited as having said at the opening of talks that the difficult international situation is characterized by the growing aggressiveness of imperialism. The Angolan-Cape Verdean cooperation was also at the center of the talks.

The Angolan delegation to the talks includes Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge, Interior Minister Alexandre Rodriques, Roberto de Almeida, secretary of the Central Committe for Ideology, and Paulino Pinto Joao, director of the Information Department of the Central Committee. The delegation also includes Carlos Fernandes, the state secretary for cooperation.

President Aristides Pereira is accompanied by various members of his government, including Silvino da Luz, his foreign minister, and Corsino Fortes, the state secretary for social communication.

Dos Santos Speaks

MB301915 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1900 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Speech by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos at the opening of official talks between Angola and Cape Verde in Luanda on 30 July — recorded]

[Text] Comrade President Aristides Pereira, distinguished members of the Cape Verdian delegation, comrades:

It is with great satisfaction that we receive you in our capital today. As you had the opportunity to note at the airport, a number of workers of Luanda and several groups of traditional dancers have already expressed their joy for (?yet another) visit of Comrade President Aristides Pereira to Luanda, this time for a rather brief visit, which is nevertheless important for us. They danced and sang, thus expressing the greetings of the Angolan people to the people of Cape Verde and Comrade President Aristides Pereira, their most distinguished representative. I would like therefore to also greet Comrade President Aristides Periera and the delegation accompanying him on behalf of the leadership of our party and Government of the People's Republic of Angola. I would also like to express our recognition for having accepted our invitation to visit the People's Republic of Angola at this date and on an occasion when extremely delicate talks are in progress with a view to reaching satisfactory solutions for a number of problems which preoccupy the international community, particularly Africa, namely southern Africa.

During your visit, we are thinking of not only going over this issue, that is, the Namibian people, and the problem of the occupation of Angola by South African forces. We are also thinking of conducting an exchange of views about several questions that worry our continent, [words indistinct], and problems resulting from the difficult international situation we are living through. We are also thinking of deepening aspects of our bilateral cooperation so that we may find paths or mechanisms that are likely to strengthen the traditonal links of friendship and solidarity that unite the peoples of Angola and Cape Verde and their respective vanguard parties. Such friendship and solidarity are based upon solid principles and also constitute the basis for the development of a mutually advantageous economic cooperation between our countries.

We would like to wish Comrade President Aristides Pereira and his distinguished delegation a pleasant stay in our country. We believe that our talks will take place, as has always been the case, in an atmosphere of frank comradeship within the great friendship that characterizes the relations between our peoples. Therefore, we welcome you, Comrade Aristides Pereira, and comrade members of the delegation that accompany you.

Talks End

MB311507 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Official talks between Aristides Pereira, president of Cape Verde, and Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, ended a while ago at the Futungo de Belas in Luanda. No communique was released at the end of the talks, but according to statements made by the Cape Verdian president in Praia, the meeting between the two heads of state would deal mainly with the situation in southern Africa.

During the speeches made when the talks began yesterday, Comrades Aristides Pereira and Jose Eduardo dos Santos expressed their firm belief that the outcome of the talks would bear fruit, not only for both sides, but also the peoples struggling in the African Continent.

This morning, in the framework of his visit, the Cape Verdian president went to the (Etel) earth station where he toured all the installations. The communications center is geared to provide international communications via telex, telephone, and satellite.

[Words indistinct] Comrade Aristides Pereira; Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Angola's president; Comrade Andre Pitra, Petroff, secretary for production of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee; Bernardo de Sousa, minister of transport; Paulo Teixeira Jorge, minister of external affairs; and Alexandre Rodrigues, Kito, minister of the interior.

In this visit to Angola, the Cape Verdian head of state is accompanied by Silvino da Luz, Cape Verde's minister of foreign affairs; and Corsino Fortes, secretary of state for social communication.

Dos Santos Congratulates Castro on Anniversary

MB271729 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has congratulated Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba, and the Cuban Government and people on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks, which was marked yesterday.

The attack on Moncada Barracks, the head of state wrote in his message, remains the symbol of the victory over a bloodthirsty and fascist regime in the pay of imperialism, which went down in history as the dawn of the struggle of the Cuban people for the gain of their real independence, and building of the first socialist state in the American Continent.

The head of state stressed the fact that three decades after this historic date, it must be stated that imperialism has not changed its aggressive attitude toward Cuba — it maintains the economic blockade, organizes provocations, and extends its bellicose action to other countries in the region in order to suffocate the struggle of the oppressed peoples for democracy on the one hand, and overthrow legitimate governments of progressive countries on the other.

Despite this atmosphere, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos added, the Cuban people have built the basis of socialism and achieved on the American Continent matchless levels of development in the fields of health and education and largely exceeded the levels of material production of the neocolonial era.

Jorge Receives Credentials of Three Envoys

MB271530 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] Paulo Teixeira Jorge, Angola's minister of external affairs, received yesterday the credentials of the new ambassadors of Botswana, Mr Edward Rasebotsa, and of Pakistan, Mr Raja Khadim Hussain. These ambassadors replace their colleagues, Mogoloi Medezi, now resident in Lusaka, and Mr Adwar Kedan, now residing in Maputo. The minister of external affairs received also the credentials of the new Finish ambassador, Mr Garth Castreen, who replaces his colleague, Mr Erik Hellqvist, also resident in Lusaka. It will be recalled that during the week Comrade Paulo Jorge received in separate audiences the ambassadors of France, Mr Jean Jacques Galabru, and of Nicaragua, Mr David McField Richards, the latter resident in Maputo where he is also the Nicaraguan ambassador.

UNITA Says It Halts Government Offensive

MB311953 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] UNITA, which recently said its forces would be fighting government troops in the streets of Luanda by the end of the year, claims to have beaten back a government offensive against the Cazombo salient in the east of the country. UNITA says the 4-month-old offensive against Cazombo has failed and government forces are fleeing in total disorder.

UNITA forces are said to have killed 1,600 Angolan and 214 Cuban troops at a loss of 300 men. A 15,000-strong government force backed by tanks and MiG aircraft launched the offensive early in autumn.

UNITA Communique Cites 6-11 Jul Victories

MB291123 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 29 Jul 84

[Communique on UNITA activities from 6 to 11 July issued by the General Staff of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola at UNITA central base in Angola on 11 July]

[Text] Of the various actions which were carried between 6 and 11 Jul 1984, we stress the following:

Moxico Province. On 8 July, our forces shot down a PC-7 aircraft and an Alouette-3 as they were carrying out a reconnaissance mission. All of their occupants died. On 11 July an attack was carried out against the village of (Neje) which is situated 97.5 km east of Luso city, while the CF-D [railroad line D] strategic bridge over the river at the village was destroyed.

Huambo Province. On 9 July a group of commandos infiltrated and attacked the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] and Cuban barracks in the industrial wards of (Cuca) and Chianga in the city of Huambo. A total of 9 Cubans and 12 FAPLA members were killed, including Captain Antonio Carlos, provincial delegate of the Ministry of Security, and his assistant, Second Lieutenant (Matito). The installations of the Institute for Agronomic Investigation of Angola, also in Chianga ward, were attacked and destroyed, while two Cuban technicians were killed.9 Benguela Province. On 7 July, the Cuban and FAPLA Barracks 93 km southeast of Balombo was taken by our forces and six Cuban experts were killed.

Bie Province. On 7 July, an attack was carried out on a Cuban column between Andulo and Cutato, 19 km from Andulo. A total of 7 vehicles, 2 BTR, and a PT-76 tank were destroyed and a total of 11 Cubans were killed, while 38 weapons were captured. On 11 July, the bridges at Cueli and (Iaiava) over the CF-D line, 32 and 37.5 km respectively from the city of General Machado, were destroyed. An attack was also carried out on the enemy garrison at (Cassiuca), 18.5 km southeast of Bie. Two FAPLA officers were captured.

During this period, 187 FAPLA members and 39 Cubans were killed, 413 weapons were captured, and 24 vehicles, 5 BTR armored cars, 4 BRDM, and 2 PT-76 tanks were destroyed. A PC-7 aircraft and an Alouette-3 were also shot down.

The UNITA forces suffered 13 dead, 26 wounded, 6 missing, and 8 weapons destroyed.

Central base of UNITA in Angola, 11 July 1984, the year of the Anti-cuban Patriotic Front.

Brigadier Demostenes Amos Chilingutila, the general chief of staff

BOTSWANA

BPU Announces Parliamentary Candidates

MB301847 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The Botswana Progressive Union [BPU] party has announced the names of 10 of their parliamentary candidates for the forthcoming general election. The names were released to the press by the give president of the party, Mr Koloi, who said that more names for parliamentary and council candidates would be released during the course of this week.

The candidates are Mr (Solabe) for Sebia-Gweta, Mr (Moropi Sifo) for Mahalapye, Mr (Koloi) for Boteti, Mr (George Ramohobe) for Northeast, and Mr (Nekane Maphosa) for Gaborone South. Others are Mr (Museki) for Tonota, Miss (Sylvia Koma) for Francistown, Mr (Magua) for Tswapong South, Mr

(Tekhitso) for Gaborone North, and the presidential nominee is the party's president, Mr Kwele, who is also a candidate for the incumbent East constituency.

Talking to the press in Francistown, Mr (Koloi) said that due to limited time and financial resources, his party has not been able to cover the whole country, but said that the party's representation in this year's general elections would be sufficient to show Botswana that the BPU was existing and advancing. He would not, however, state how many constituencies the BPU would contest.

LESOTHO

Sixishe Says RSA Sanctions Hamper Food Relief

MB311743 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The distribution of drought relief food supplies in the inaccessible mountain areas of Lesotho has been greatly hampered by the selective sanctions that South Africa is applying on Lesotho, according to a statement made by the minister of information and broadcasting, Honorable Desmond Sixishe.

The minister said that Lesotho has purchased a helicopter from Italy which was, among other things, intended to assist in the distribution of drought relief food in the mountain areas. This helicopter is lying in the South African port of Durban as South Africa continues to ignore requests from Lesotho's Government to allow it transit.

Last year South Africa also refused transit to helicopter spare parts which were intended for helicopters already belonging to the Lesotho Government. The minister said that, as a mountainous country, Lesotho requires helicopters to assist Basotho in the remote areas during times of food shortage and when they become snowbound.

Jonathan on Implementing Parts of Election Act

MB311841 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The prime minister, Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, who is also minister responsible for constitutional affairs, announced at a meeting at (Gogone) last week that certain sections of the Parliament Act of 1983 are to be brought into operation to facilitate preparations for the coming general elections. These arrangements, which include the registration of voters and the delimination of constituencies, are embodied in sections 16 and 17 of the act and come into operation tomorrow.

In terms of Section 16 of the act, a constituency delimination commission is to be appointed by his majesty the king and will not be under the control or direction of any person or authority. Under Section 17 of this act, Lesotho will be divided into 60 constituencies which will be described by the constituency delimination commission, taking into account certain characteristics such as the density of the population. A spokesman for the office of the prime minister said it is not true that the registration of voters starts today, as claimed by some South African newspaper reports. The relevant clauses of the act, he added, will be brought into operation only to facilitate the registration process and not to begin registration.

Commenting on a report on the front page of the 27 July issue of *LESELINYANA LA LESOTHO*, which claims that elections are going on already, the spokesman said the reports are completely misleading. The spokesman added that the prime minister has urged Basotho at a number of meetings held recently to rally behind the Basotho National Party [BNP] and select one candidate from each constituency. If only one candidate is chosen by the people, it automatically follows that the need to vote becomes unneccesary, and the candidate is returned unopposed.

Dr Jonathan has received assurances of support for him and the BNP throughout the country, therefore leading the opposition to fears of rejection by the nation, the spokesman concluded.

New Education, Sports, Culture Minister Sworn In

MB301210 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Excerpts] The office of the prime minister has announced the appointment of Mr J.R.L. Kotsokwane as minister of education, sports, and culture. He replaces Mr B.A. Tlelase, who has been appointed vice chancellor of the National University of Lesotho.

Mr Kotsokwane was sworn in as minister of education by the chief justice, Mr T.S. (Khotla) at the royal palace in Maseru today. This was before his majesty the king; the prime minister, the right honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan; cabinet ministers; and many senior civil servants. Mr Kotsokwane has been in the Lesotho public life for the past 33 years, having moved from agriculture through the diplomatic world into active politics.

MOZAMBIQUE

Cuban Experts To Assist Fishing Activities

MB261344 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] Two Cuban experts will shortly arrive in Sofala Province so as to carry out work connected with fishing activities.

Other Cuban technicians are also expected for the purpose of training Mozambican personnel linked with the Mozambican Fishing Enterprise in Sofala Province.

This news was disclosed by a group of representatives of the Cuban community in Sofala during a press conference which they held in the city of Beira on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the revolution which began with the assault of the Moncada barracks.

'Armed Bandits' Attack Conho Educational Center

MB261522 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] The Frelimo Party leadership in Zambezia has hailed the revolutionary heroism and sacrifical spirit and dedication displayed by teachers and students of the Conho Educational Center in Mopeia District. At a meeting held very recently with students and teachers of that center, Omar Luis Francisco, member of the Frelimo Party Central Committee and secretary for organization of the party provincial committee in Zambezia, described the sacrificial spirit and heroism displayed by the center's teachers and students as an example to be enhanced.

The Conho Educational Center has recently been attacked by the armed bandits, who plundered many of the belongings of teachers and students.

NAMIBIA

Van Niekerk Cites Lack of Angolan Restraint on SWAPO

MB010710 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Aug 84

[Text] The administrator general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk, says the Angolan MPLA-Labor government is finding it increasingly difficult to adhere to the Lusaka Agreement with South Africa because it cannot restrain SWAPO.

Dr van Niekerk said in an interview with the South African Broadcasting Corporation that Angola was obliged to restrain SWAPO under the terms of the Lusaka Agreement. However, because of SWAPO violations of the agreement, it had been impossible to withdraw South African forces from southern Angola.

The Joint Monitoring Commission was still at Ngiva and it could not recommend that South Africa move its troops further south because of the present situation.

Mudge Criticizes Multi-Party Conference on Constitution

MB311338 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1149 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Windhoek, July 31, SAPA — The leader of the Republikeinse Party [RP] and of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Mr Dirk Mudge, has expressed impatience with the Multi-Party Conference, saying the MPC was taking too long to draft a constitution for SWA/Namibia. The SWABC [expansion unknown] reported Mr Mudge had told an RP conference the delay in drawing up a constitution was unacceptable.

He said the MPC was to design a framework within which political parties could compete democratically in an independent SWA/Namibia.

The RP is affiliated to the MPC.

Further on Mortar Attack on Oshakati

AB311245 Paris AFP in English 1236 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Windhoek, July 31 (AFP) — Guerrillas of the Namibian nationalist South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) launched a mortar attack on the garrison town of Oshakati early today, military authorities said.

Residents in the town said the attack began at 2:00 am and lasted for about 15 minutes. "We thought it was routine excercises until the crescendo of the blasts became very loud," one resident told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. A spokesman for the South-West Africa Territory Force said from its headquarters in Windhoek the attack with 82-mm mortars had been unsuccessful. "There was limited damage to the state hospital," he added.

According to a government source the Police station was also damaged but the military spokesman said he could not confirm this.

Oshakati is the nerve centre of the war zone in Namibia, where SWAPO has been engaged in an 18-year armed struggle against South Africa's continued presence in the territory despite a United Nations Security Council Resolution that it should grant independence.

In a statement received in Windhoek yesterday from Luanda SWAPO vowed to extend its armed struggle to "all corners of Namibia." Meanwhile the headquarters of the South African Defence Force in Pretoria announced the death of a 21-year-old Cape Town soldier, Rifleman Arthur James Henn, in a "shooting incident" in the war zone.

SOUTH AFRICA

Government To Close Consulate in New Zealand

MB311821 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1817 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Pretoria, July 31, SAPA — The South African Government had decided to close its consulate general in New Zealand, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said in Pretoria tonight.

"Our consulate-general has been given instructions to make the necessary arrangements to return to South African without delay," Mr Botha said in a statement.

It would not be necessary for the new prime minister of New Zealand, Mr David Lange, to issue a statement later this week on the fate of the South African mission, Mr Botha said.

Mr Lange had made it clear in an interview yesterday that the closure of the consulate-general was non-negotiable.

In the light of this statement, it is not necessary for the New Zealand Government to make a statement later this week on the affair. The South African Government had not received official notice of the New Zealand Government's intention to close the Republic's mission.

However, the South African consul-general had informed Mr Botha that a statement was expected later this week.

The foreign minister questioned Mr Lange's statement that most New Zealanders were in favor of the closure of the South African mission.

"It is clear Mr Lange succumbed to pressure from a number of leftists in his own party," Mr Botha said.

"The good relations and friendship that has developed between New Zealanders and South Africans over many years will not be damaged by Mr Lange's impulsive and short-sighted attitude."

New Zealanders would still be welcome to visit South Africa "to see for themselves the progress that has been made in improving group relations and to implement reform measures in the field of constitutional development." Mr Botha added.

Commenting on Mr Lange's statement during yesterday's interview that New Zealand's trade links with the rest of Africa would benefit considerably if the South African mission were closed, Mr Botha said most African leaders would not be impressed by this point of view.

"Mr Lange has created expectations with his standpoint on South African representation in New Zealand. I hope he will fulfill these expectations."

Mr Botha said the closing of the South African mission would not harm the Republic.

"There are, however, prominent New Zealanders who are of the opinion that Mr Lange has done harm to his own country. I agree with them," the minister added.

Cabinet Meets; Reported To Have Discussed Talks

MB311323 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] The first weekly cabinet meeting since the end of the parliamentary session 2 weeks ago was held in Pretoria this morning under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha.

Our political news staff reports among the issues likely to have been discussed are the recent abortive talks between the South-West African administrator-general, Dr Willie van Niekerk, and SWAPO, and the implementation of the new constitution. The next stage of the process will be taken on Friday with the probable announcement of the new regulations applicable to the election of the indirectly elected members of the new parliament. The constitution comes into effect on 3 September.

Minister Rejects Expulsion Resolution by Postal Union

MB271921 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] The minister of posts and telecommunications, Dr Lapa Munnik, says South Africa rejects the resolution passed by the Universal Postal Union [UPU] concerning the termination of South Africa's membership of the union because such a proposal lies outside the power of the union. Dr Munnik said in Pretoria that such a proposal had been accepted during the 19th congress of the UPU which ended in Hamburg recently, but the constitution of the union made no provision for the expulsion of a member country or even for its suspension.

The constitution could only be amended by a two-thirds majority of all member countries. Dr Munnik said South Africa's opponents were aware of the fact that they could not achieve such a two-thirds majority and had adopted the proposal with a simple majority. Dr Munnik said South Africa's customs union partners — Botswana, Swaziland, and Lesotho — had opposed the move and their support had been noted with appreciation.

Du Plessis Takes Over Finance Portfolio

MB271418 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] Mr Barend Du Plessis has taken over the portfolio of minister of finance from the outgoing minister, Mr Owen Horwood. Mr Du Plessis' previous portfolio, that of education and training, will be filled temporarily by the minister of national education, Dr Gerrit Viljoen.

Mr Du Plessis was briefed this morning by the 11 divisions within his department. He will take his place in the cabinet as minister of finance for the first time on Tuesday. Our political staff reports that it is unlikely that a new minister of education and training will be appointed before the new constitution comes into effect on 14 [as heard] September.

Minister Urges Media Role in Promoting Consensus

MB281148 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English
28 Jul 84 pp 1, 2

[By Chris Reimond, political correspondent]

[Text] The Government indicated yesterday that it expected the media to play a leading role in promoting political "consensus" under the new Constitution.

Coupled to a virtually unreported Government confirmation earlier this month that key debates under the new system would be behind closed doors, yesterday's statement by the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, could mean the public's right to know what is happening in government may soon be limited even further.

In an address to the congress of the Afrikaanse Studentepersunie at the Rand Afrikaans University in Johannesburg yesterday, Mr Heunis implied that when the new Constitution is implemented in September, the Government expects the media to emphasise the pontential for consensus rather than the possibility of conflict.

He said the "new deal" would require "a media style" that would highlight "consensus opportunities" rather than concentrate on "problems causing conflict".

If the media regarded conflict between groups as the best "news" then it was contributing to conflict rather than co-operation.

While it was necessary for the Press to point out problems which caused or could cause conflict, this should always be balanced with the potential for consensus, Mr Heunis said.

Commenting last night, the President of the Southern African Society of Journalists, Miss Pat Sidley, said: "What Mr Heunis envisages as 'a media style' which would promote 'consensus' rather than 'conflict' is in contravention of all the basic principles of Press freedom and the promotion of the free flow of information."

Mr Heunis' remarks follow a comment in the final hours of the parliamentary session earlier this month, when the Leader of the House of Assembly, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, confirmed to opposition MPs during a debate on the standing rules and orders which would apply to the new Parliament, that standing committee meetings would generally exclude the media.

His disclosure immediately caused concern in some circles that the standing committee system could prevent the media from reporting serious — and politically important — differences between participants in the new system.

The standing committees will be a conerstone of the new Parliament. Political and ideological differences between the different parties will be thrashed out in attempts to reach "consensus".

The committees will comprise members of all the parties in all three Houses of Parliament.

Public debates in the three Houses, after the committees have reached "consensus", could become mere rubber stamps for decisions taken behind closed doors.

The public could therefore be denied the right to observe the method by which their elected representatives reach agreement — or disagree — on laws.

There was also speculation recently that the Government might consider a system of "news management" through regular briefings and statements by chairmen of standing committees or Cabinet Ministers, releasing only the information it would like the public to know.

The Progressive Federal Party's media spokesman, Mr David Dalling, says yesterday the new Constitution should not lead to any basic change in the media's duty to report and interpret facts. He would oppose any move that limited this right.

However, if consensus and not conflict were to become the method of government, he hoped the media would reflect it.

On the other hand, the media could not be expected to report consensus if it was not happening.

While there was a strong case for the standing committees to meet in camera where participants would not necessarily be bound by publicly fixed positions, there was a danger that the committees could lose credibility if secrecy became the norm, Mr Dallling said.

In an address this week on Press freedom, at the 25th anniversary celebration of the founding of the *FINANCIAL MAIL*, a leading businessman, Mr Tony Bloom, said the Press was the "ears and eyes" of the public, and anything which was withheld from the Press was withheld from each member of the public.

"To shackle the Press is to shackle all of us," said Mr Bloom, who is chairman of the Premier Group.

It was the duty of the Press to be the watchdog and not the lapdog of those in authority.

Miss Sidley said yesterday that "secret" standing committee meetings would mean that public representatives would be less accountable to their constituents because the public's right to be informed would be severely limited.

"One would have thought it enough that many of the laws restricting the Press already ensure that in too many instances the public can only know what the Government wants it to know," she said.

SOWETAN Editorial on Bombing Attacks, Violence

MB300951 Johannesburg SOWETAN in English
24 Jul 84 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text] Whatever the outcome of the petrol-bombing of houses of people believed to be collaborators, the truth is we are entering a phase of unrest that is naught for anybody's comfort.

The stock response to such acts in a repressive society, particularly, is to stiffen the backbone of the system, perhaps frighten those who are perceived as collaborators, and rather sadly to motivate revenge. While the average person who believes he is not involved in the whole mess tends to push this kind of thing out of his mind, we all ultimately get involved.

The only way in which violence will stop breeding violence is for people to talk, to negotiate, to thrash out their problems in open forum. But this country makes this democratic process almost impossible.

There are those who through repeated frustration and sometimes sheer anger, will hit out with violence at what they believe to be their enemies.

The world, unfortunately, is also breeding the kind of person who regards violence as a means to an end. This is a reflection on the societies that the world has today. There is no one, to our way of thinking, in his or her sane senses, who would prefer the violent way as the only means to an end.

While we are against violence as a means of expressing dissent we are adult to realise that such do exist; people who are forced in their way of thinking of dismantling the political process through violent revolution.

Most people are pretty well conscious of the fact that violence stalks in all lands, even the most democratic. But the trouble with a country such as ours, where there is bitter feeling to the right and to the left, is very soon we will not be knowing who is attacking who, and why.

There is a tendency for those on the right to hit back in revenge and they often choose their targets indiscriminately. This is an abominable situation for a country that has pretensions to Western-style democracy.

The situation becomes pretty messy. If a radical white is killed by a petrol bomb outside the confines of the country, who is to know where the bomb came from? In the same spirit who is to know whether the bombings of the homes of trade unionists, of policemen and more often these days of town councillors, is not revenge from previous killings.

The spiral of violence feeds on itself. We are left on the sidelines, often clicking our tongues in concern, shaking our heads in dismay, not knowing what is going on.

What we know is that this thing will only stop when all the people in the country have a fair share in the government.

CITIZEN Discusses Impact of International Relations

MB280656 Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 19 Jul 84 p 6

[Editorial: "Not Untouched"]

[Text] The right always seems to think that South Africa can go it alone, fight it out, preserve its traditional way of life, as if nothing that happens overseas can hurt us.

But although *THE CITIZEN* has always said that our policies must be our own, that we alone can decide our destiny, we cannot escape the effect of events abroad.

If the rampant dollar knocks gold, the economy suffers severely. If New York City talks of pulling out investments from firms that trade with South Africa, we cannot just shrug our shoulders and say: So what?

If the Democratic Party adopts a policy that would have the United States impose selected economic sanctions against South Africa and deny landing rights to SAA [South African Airways], we seek comfort from the fact that the Democrats are highly unlikely to win the Presidential election, anyway.

As President Reagan has committed his adminstration to a policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa, we feel confident he will not agree to sanctions.

The truth is that a New York City move against companies trading with South Africa can be duplicated by other cities.

Though the Democratic Party will most likely not win the Presidential election, Mr Reagan's second term will also be his last.

After that, who knows? The Democrats might win the following Presidential election.

Besides, the Democrats are able to apply a lot of pressure in Congress even when they do not have a Democratic incumbent in the White House.

We cannot, therefore, totally escape the ill-will of the Democratic Party.

In Britain, we have become accustomed to having a Conservative Government in office.

We take Mrs Thatcher to task when she tries to foul up an England rugby tour, or accuses us of destabilising our neighbours.

But we can get on with Mrs Thatcher because we know she will not do anything to foul up the trade ties between South Africa and Britain; we know that although she is against our racial policies, she will not try to dictate to us the way we should order our lives.

When she is in trouble, as she is now over the coalminers' strike, which has spread to the docks, over policy lapses that have critics complaining that her Government is slipping on banana skins, we get anxious, because we know that any weakening in her position and that of the Conservatives can spell problems for us when Britain next goes to the polls.

When the French Cabinet resigns, we take comfort from the fact that the new Prime Minister, Mr Fabius, demostrated as the outgoing Industry Minister that he has a pragmatic approach to South Africa, supporting increased trade with the Republic.

Perhaps there will be better relations between France and Pretoria; perhaps nothing will change and we will remain at arm's length. But we will anxiously watch what happens.

And so it goes on.

A change of government in New Zealand, bringing to power a Labour Prime Minister committed to closing our consulate in Wellington, is not an event that can be dismissed as of no consequence, for although New Zealand does not matter much in our lives in terms of trade or influence in Africa or in world councils, the kicking out of our consular staff sets a precedent that other countries might follow.

All this goes to show that we cannot simply ignore what happens elsewhere, we cannot simply tough it out in the mistaken belief that the outside world matters nothing to us.

That is why reform is important — reform not in accordance with the one man, one vote demands of our enemies, but designed by us and tailored by us to our own requirements. Reform, moreover, that shows the rest of the world that we are moving away from policies which have made our name stink; reform, moreover, that deserves to be recognised overseas as one of the most significant developments in this country in the 74 years since union.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Invited To Attend GDR Party Anniversary

MB301539 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kaunda, has been invited by his GDR counterpart Erich Honecker to attend that country's 35th anniversary of the Socialist Unity Party this October. Dr Kaunda received the invitation at State House this morning which was delivered by a 3-man delegation of the Socialist Unity Party's Department of International Relations led by Mr (Guenther Gricke).

The president assured Mr (Gricke) that although the invitation would be discussed by the Central Committee, the United National Independence Party would be present during the celebrations. Earlier, Dr Kaunda said the warm relations between Zambia and the GDR should not be taken for granted, but should be aimed at reaching the highest standards. The president said the two countries shared similar views and ideas and that they were anti-imperialists and believed in the nonexploitation of man by man.

Bulgaria Requests Information on Agriculture

MB311020 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Bulgaria says she can participate positively and successfully in the development of agriculture and agro-based industries in Zambia only if the Zambian Governemnt gave her the necessary details and assistance required in initial stages.

Bulgarian charge d'affairs at the Bulgarian embassy, Ivan Petrov, said this when he reviewed progress on the implementation of the joint Zambian-Bulgarian project, as contained in a protocol (?they took under a) joint commission. The joint commission, at its last meeting in Sofia last year, agreed that the two sides should concentrate their efforts on establishment of a joint venture for tobacco production, processing, and marketing, and the establishment of a pilot farm project at (Zambezi). Mr Petrov said the full implementation of these projects had been made difficult by the lack of details from the Zambian side. He said that the situation was now more favorable for Bulgaria to draw up a state farm in Zambia, because she had similar programs in Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Angola, Mozambique, and Congo.

ZIMBABWE

Cuban Party Leaders To Attend ZANU-PF Congress

MB271404 Harare Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] Cuban people have expressed solidarity and a willingness to help with ZANU-PF preparations for the forthcoming second national congress next month. Today the Cuban ambassador to Zimbabwe, Comrade Alfonso Fraga, laid a wreath at Hero's Acre to mark that country's 31st anniversary of the Moncada Garrison attack. Comrade Fraga said the ceremony is intended to coincide with the founding of ZANU-PF 21 years ago. He said there is friendship between the two countries through the blood of combatants who sacrificed their lives against human injustice. He said two senior party officials of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee are expected in the country early next month for the congress at the invitation of ZANU-PF.

Ministry To Regulate Attendance at Meetings Abroad

MB300729 Harare Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 30 Jul 84

[Text] The Ministry of Local Government and Town Planning has introduced regulations banning mayors, chairmen of local authorities, and ministry officials from accepting invitations to attend meetings outside the country without the minister's approval.

The acting town clerk of Bulawayo, Comrade (Mike Mbiliwa), told a central meeting last week that the regulations are contained in a circular from the secretary of local government and town planning. The regulations state that on receiving an invitation to attend a conference outside the county, a department must submit a memorandum to the minister summarizing the nature of the meeting. The memorandum must also explain how the government will benefit from the attendance of representatives, and must recommend the most suitable section to send a representative.

THE HERALD Reports FAO Conference Declaration

MB311558 Harare THE HERALD in English 26 Jul 84 p 1

[Agricultural reporter]

[Text] The foundation for greater prosperity and self-reliance in food production in Africa must be laid by regional initiatives supported by international community aid, delegates to the 13th regional Food and Agriculture Organisation conference resolved yesterday. In their Harare Declaration a total of 41 countries — 30 of them represented by ministers of agriculture — confirmed they were deeply conscious of their responsibility to ensure enough food is produced.

It was noted that the main objectives of the Lagos Plan of Action to bring about substantial improvements in the food situation by 1985 had remained largely unrealised.

Concern was also expressed at structural constraints retarding food production in Africa, and of the global and domestic crises frustrating the best-designed efforts.

They include prolonged drought, the rate of population growth, world economic recession, debt problems and effects of conflicts and foreign interventions — especially in Namibia — as well as inequitable land distribution.

The "aggrieved and chagrined" delegates resolved to overcome the food crisis in Africa and renewed their commitment to the establishment of a new international economic order.

Delegates accepted that the burden of developing agriculture and rural areas and raising nutritional standards rested substantially on their governments' efforts.

They pledged to continue to give the highest priority to agricultural and rural development by adopting more effective policies and increasing efficiency of resources in government institutions.

Emphasis would be placed on having higher producer prices, the provision of credit facilities and timely payment of farmers' entitlements, intensification of training and research, expansion of pest control and measures to reduce post harvest losses and to eradicate animial diseases such as rinderpest.

On food security, delegates reaffirmed their accord with the application to Africa of the new concept of world food security adopted by FAO and the United Nations General Assembly.

"We call on all international organisations and donor agencies to increase their financial and material assistance to accelerate agricultural development in the region," says the Harare Declaration.

It concluded: "We solemnly put forth this Harare Declaration on the food crisis in Africa in the conviction that we possess the will and capacity to have the full support of the international community to feed all our peoples and to lay the foundation for greater economic prosperity and self-reliance in Africa."

Delegates also adopted a resolution sponsored by Niger which, among other things, calls on donor agencies to help cover food aid deficits estimated by FAO at 445,000 tonnes of cereals for the remainder of 1983/84.

The FAO director-general, Dr Edouard Saouma, said the Harare Declaration was strikingly different from the traditional type of resolutions often adopted, adding that "it should work".

The chairman of the ministerial plenary session, Senator Denis Norman, who is also minister of agriculture, said: "I can only hope that we cannot only halt the present trend, but even reverse it.

"When we meet in two years time we will have a more cheerful story to tell."

Delegates resolved to hold the 14th FAO regional conference in Congo in 1986.